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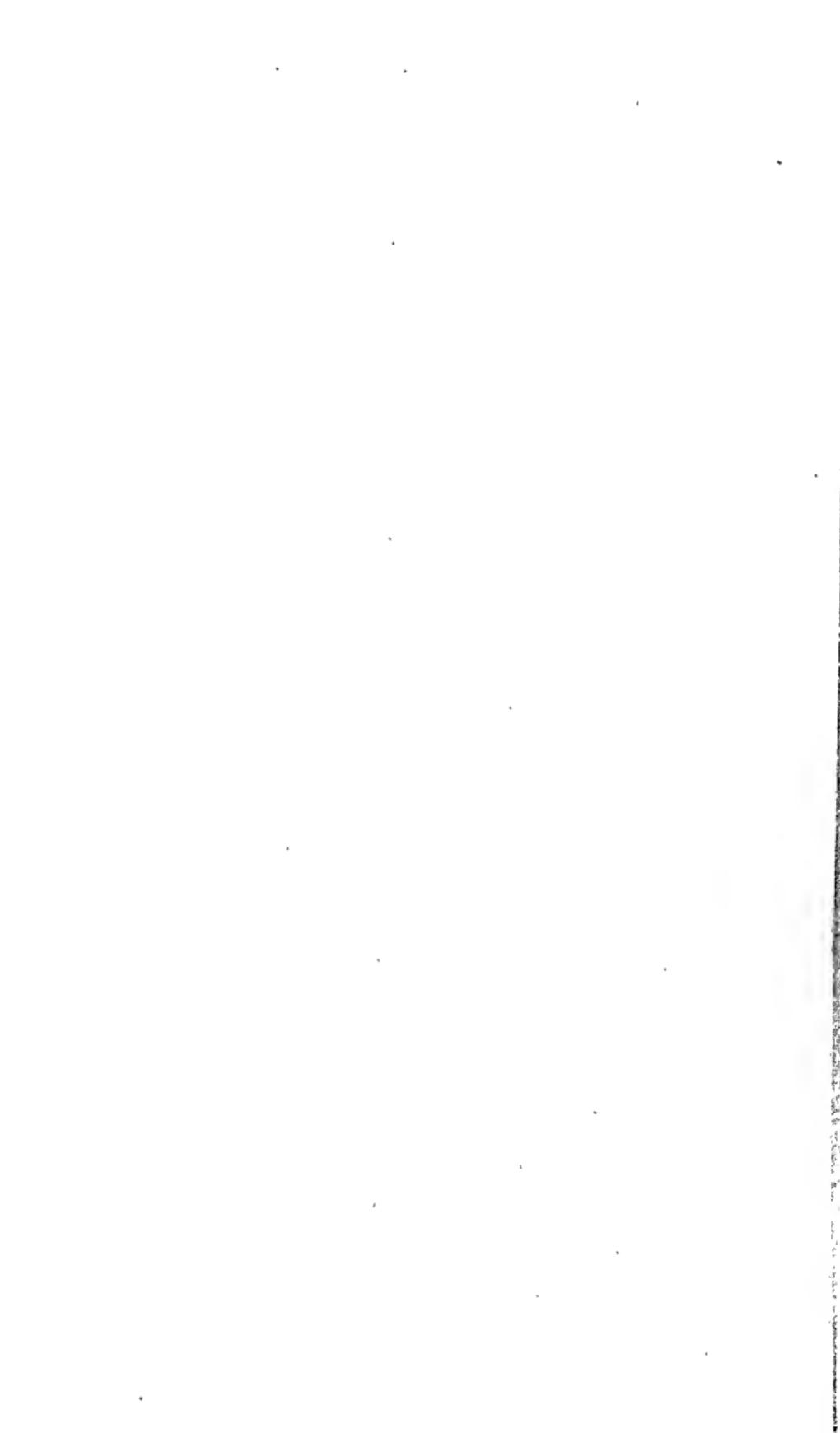
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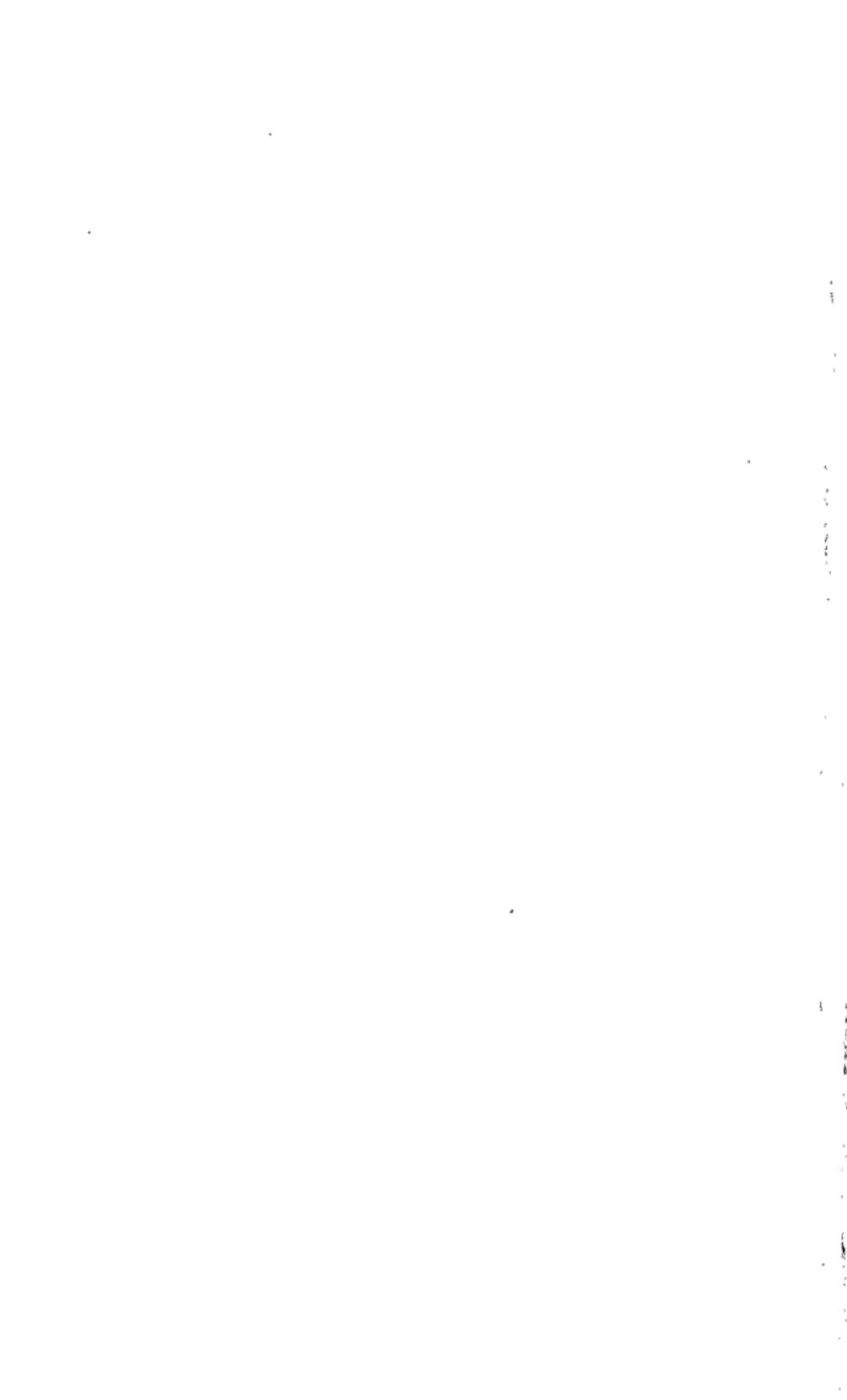
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A SHORT DICTIONARY  
OF ARCHITECTURE



# A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

INCLUDING SOME COMMON BUILDING TERMS

by

DORA WARE and BETTY BEATTY, A.R.I.B.A.

*With an Introduction  
on the Study of Architecture by  
JOHN GLOAG, HON. A.R.I.B.A.*

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FOR their considerable help in checking definitions and for many constructive suggestions and criticisms, our thanks are due to Mr. D. L. Bridgwater, F.R.I.B.A., and to Mr. C. G. Dobson. We are also indebted to Mr. R. T. James, O.B.E., M.INST.C.E., for advice and assistance, to Mr. John Gloag for much practical help, and to Mr. Philip Unwin for his encouragement.

D. W.  
B. B.

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

IN this third edition, the following are reproduced from Vol. I of Lomax and Gunyon's *Encyclopaedia of Architecture* (1852):

*Angular capital*  
*Archivolt*  
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*Beak head*  
*Bell-cot*  
*Clustered column*  
*Engaged columns*  
*Fan vaulting*  
*Gablet*

## INTRODUCTION

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# The Study of Architecture

By JOHN GLOAG

SINCE men gave up using open-air skyscrapers in the form of arboreal nests and solid, ready-made shelters in the form of caves, they have made three conspicuous structural discoveries. Firstly, they found that two upright posts could support a horizontal member; and from this has arisen what is known variously as post-and-lintel, post-and-beam, or trabeated construction. It is the basic principle behind most of the building that is still done in the world to-day, for walls are really prolonged posts, vertical masses that support horizontal members, which carry floors and roofs. The second discovery was the arch, and from this arose arcuated construction. In both these methods of construction, buildings were held up chiefly by their walls, which gave them, like crustaceans, a strong external structure. The use of the arch enabled large spaces to be spanned without intervening supports, and allowed great masses of stone to be carried aloft, their weight being spread downwards by curved paths to walls and piers. The third discovery changed buildings structurally from crustaceans to vertebrates, for the invention of the cantilever principle and the increase of metallurgical knowledge led to the use of an internal skeleton of steelwork that was self-supporting, and from which thin walls could be hung, for they were no longer required to hold up floors and roof.

A clear understanding of the significance of these three structural methods is an essential preliminary to the study of European architecture. In every age, architecture creates a permanent and veracious record of the social, economic, religious, emotional, intellectual, and artistic conditions under which people live. The way in which these structural methods have been used, or misused, conventionalized, ignored, disguised, or brought to perfection by liberating the fecundity of original minds, inevitably reflects the character of a civilization, even though centuries of wear and tear and weather may have given a gentle romantic atmosphere alike to dullness or daring, arrogance or ignorance, conceit or genius.

The Greeks perfected trabeated construction; they evolved three

systems of design that governed the proportions of vertical and horizontal members, and those systems, or "orders" of architecture, were known as Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian. "Art is always a somewhat mysterious subject to deal with," wrote Lisle March Phillipps, "but we may say this about it with some confidence, that it never manifests itself with certainty, and least of all in the shape of a great architectural style, until it has behind it a combined and united effort. It has in it something of the nature of a solution of life's problem. So far as the particular race which creates it is concerned, it is the answer to the question how to live."<sup>1</sup> The lucent intellectual quality of Greek civilization is apparent in the three orders of architecture. Within the governing framework of those systems Greek architects created works that have influenced, directly or indirectly, the architecture of every city in Europe and many in America.

The Romans, a utilitarian, vulgar and commercial people, copied the Greek Orders, and added two new ones, the Tuscan, which was a variation of Doric, and the Composite, which was a highly elaborated combination of Corinthian and Ionic. Their lack of intellectual and artistic adventurousness, their inflexible respect for convention and their love of things as they were, infected their architecture. In every mechanized detail of their buildings, the mentality of a great bureaucratic slave state is confessed. Although the Romans adopted the arch they used it merely as a structural convenience; it never affected the form of their buildings; and they did not create a noble arcuated style, as the Greeks created a noble trabeated style. The arch was invented at least five thousand years ago, and, according to Breasted, the earliest example of its use in masonry is in a tomb at Bet Khallaf in Egypt, dating from the thirtieth century before Christ.<sup>2</sup> Although the Egyptians and, almost certainly the Greeks, knew of the arch, they did not use it in architectural composition. Unlike the Romans, they did not separate structural technique from architectural form. In an early and little known book called *In the Desert*, Lisle March Phillipps said: "The interpretative quality in architecture is its main fascination. There is no form of art which so faithfully portrays the character of its creators as this does."<sup>3</sup> The Greek genius illuminated architecture: Roman gravity made it the prisoner of a system. It was not until Byzantine architecture developed, in the Eastern Roman Empire, under Greek influence, that a true arcuated architecture was

<sup>1</sup> *The Works of Man*, by Lisle March Phillipps. Second edition, 1914. Chap. VII, p. 189.

<sup>2</sup> *A History of Egypt*, by J. H. Breasted (1909 edition, 1939 reprint), Chap. V, p. 101.

<sup>3</sup> *In the Desert*, by Lisle March Phillipps, 1905, Chap. XVII, p. 240.

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

evolved, which resulted in such masterpieces as Santa Sophia, Justinian's great church at Constantinople.

Romanesque architecture grew up in the old Roman provinces, after the collapse of the Western Empire. It was largely inspired by Byzantine influence, and from its bold, firm lines originated that long series of experiments with the arch form, from which in due time the Gothic architecture of medieval Europe arose.

The Gothic architects were engineers in stone. They were daring inventors, and they perfected the technique of using stone, so that by the close of the fifteenth century great soaring masses of masonry pricked the skies with spires and pinnacles in every European town and city, while thin carved and moulded skeletons of stone enclosed a blazing splendour of coloured glass. The medieval cathedral has been called by Christian Barman "a dome of glass," and by W. R. Lethaby "a cage of stone." Then came the rediscovery of the Orders of Architecture, during the Renaissance. The old bones were disinterred, but they were given new life, because they were resurrected by men who were unintimidated by the unyielding order, standardized pomp and bureaucratic dullness of the Roman Empire. Nevertheless, no new principle of structure was engendered by that great intellectual stir we call the Renaissance. Sir William Flinders Petrie once said that "copying is an artificial system, which has no natural development or root in the mind, and which browses indifferently on anything that may be the fashion of the day."<sup>1</sup>

The renewed interest in classic architecture at least gave Europe, and in particular England, some centuries of harmonious and well-ordered buildings, when architects were guided by rules which enlarged their artistic perception and developed their sense of proportion. The educative significance of the classic Orders has been described by Mr. Howard Robertson in his illuminating book, *The Principles of Architectural Composition*. "Clothed with the beauty of proportion and detail which represents something approaching finality in this particular form of design, and having therefore inherent decorative qualities, classic columns and entablatures form a means of expressing form and line contrast which is tried and ready to hand. Small wonder, therefore, that the architect seizes on the Orders to provide his dominant decorative effect."<sup>2</sup> This, of course, supports the contention of Sir William Flinders Petrie, that copying "has no natural development or root in the mind"; but the study of the Orders by men who were under no obligation to support and flatter, in terms of architecture, an implacably conventional and

<sup>1</sup> *The Revolutions of Civilization*, by Sir W. M. Flinders Petrie, Chap. III, p. 74.

<sup>2</sup> Chap. IV, p. 43.

intellectually bankrupt civilization, might and indeed did lead to a golden age of building. Architects of genius like Inigo Jones and Sir Christopher Wren were never hampered or repressed by their mastery of Roman rules. They were not the humble and obedient servants of those rules; they were their accomplished masters. But few architects are endowed with the imaginative powers of Inigo Jones and Wren, and imagination unlit by genius may be well served by such guides as the Orders of Architecture. As Mr. Howard Robertson points out, effects similar to those obtained through the use of the Orders, and "of a much more interesting and stimulating character" could be produced by handling form in other ways. "But this entails imagination and effort, and it requires a great deal of both to originate a series of verticals and horizontals as satisfactory as that which is furnished by a well-selected classic Order. If the designer realizes that the Orders are a very subtle and refined expression of some of the principles of pure design, and not merely a more or less fashionable trapping to be borrowed and applied without reason, he will then be in the position to tackle the problem of using them with fitness or of creating his own set of elements to take their place."<sup>1</sup>

The golden age of building in England lasted from 1660 until about 1830. These are not hard-and-fast dates; but during that period few things were built in England which were not agreeable to look at, well-proportioned, pleasantly embellished, and constructed of appropriate and skilfully used materials. The buildings of that time were, in Mr. Thomas Sharp's phrase, "informed by the common urbane spirit of the age," and in the towns and cities the squares and streets of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries "were places where people lived their own lives as citizens, not adjuncts of a court on perpetual parade."<sup>2</sup>

The nineteenth century witnessed an emotional reaction against the order and clarity of Classical Architecture, as it had been interpreted by English architects, and there was an attempt to revive what was known as the Gothic style. This was an expression of the Romantic movement which was affecting literature and art. In architecture it led to an immense amount of copying, and to a period of anarchy and vulgarity in design. In England, we are still suffering from the effects of that period: the nineteenth century is still with us, although the second world war has eliminated some of its manifestations.

During the last seventy years a structural revolution in architecture

<sup>1</sup> *The Principles of Architecture*, Vol. IV, pp. 43-44.

<sup>2</sup> *Town Planning*, by L. S. Stebbins (P. M. R. 1940), Chap. I, p. 14.

has taken place, which may in due time give rise to a new and recognizable architecture in England, with national variations in different European countries and in the United States. Although some unique and subsequently famous buildings revealed that new structural methods had arrived, the majority of people in the prosperous and comparatively secure Victorian period never suspected that architecture in the hands of engineers was moving into a new period of design, that would bring changes to the form and character of building as profound and far-reaching as the changes that followed the invention of the arch. For example, the convenience of pre-fabricating standardized units and framework for a building, in a foundry or a factory, far from the site on which they were to be assembled, was demonstrated by the methods adopted for constructing the Crystal Palace. In one of those improving books for Victorian children, written in the manner of *The Fairchild Family*, the following descriptive passage occurs: "But how? how did the great building so suddenly arise? As the dry bones that were shaken by the wind came together, 'bone to his bone,' so came the columns of this Crystal Palace! They came from afar; an exceeding great army of iron and wooden bones. By wagon loads they came—girders and trusses, columns and ribs, of iron and wood. Then, they fitted one to another, forming a framework fairy-like and fine for the transparent glass. No unsightly heaps of bricks! no smoking heaps of lime! no click of noisy trowel! no great unsightly scaffolding! All the parts were ready prepared: and as they came from distant places, they quickly joined together, who like brethren, knew each other. Thus ranging in square companies and in long rows, they helped and supported one another until they were tall and strong. Then they were able to bear up their curved-shaped friends, the giant ribs, who gratefully formed a roof over their heads, and covered them in from the rain."

That is from *Little Henry's Holiday at the Great Exhibition* by the editor of *Pleasant Pages*.<sup>1</sup> Neither the kind father who explained these wonders to Little Henry, nor the thousands of kind fathers like him, realized that in providing a vast pre-fabricated cage of cast iron and glass for the Great Exhibition, Joseph Paxton had uprooted a lot of long-established ideas.

The structural revolution had begun: we are still in its experimental period. The revolution has since been called the "Modern Movement" in design. In England it is not yet attuned to English ways of life nor to English eyes; it is a new architecture in the making, though largely unacknowledged; there is indeed a nervous conspiracy on the

<sup>1</sup> Published in London, by Houlston and Stoneman.

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

part of those who commission large-scale building, to disguise the effects of the structural revolution; and to-day in our great cities the steel bones of buildings are lacquered over with stonework façades, wrought like gargantuan Roman temples, in which vast columns and entablatures, erected at enormous expense, hide from the people who use our cities the facts of contemporary architectural life. This desire for disguise is symptomatic of the flight from realism which has been apparent in the social, economic and political life of the nation in the present century. Architecture never lies about the people it serves.

There are a few buildings in London and other cities that openly acknowledge the structural revolution: they are conspicuous in a world of make-believe. For instance, the store of Peter Jones in Sloane Square, London; the headquarters of the London Passenger Transport Board, in Broadway, Westminster; the *Daily Express* building in Manchester; the factory built for Messrs. Boots at Nottingham; the studios and laboratories of London Film Productions at Denham; the Pioneer Health Centre at Peckham, and many of the railway stations of the London Passenger Transport Board. These are only a few examples.

If we are passing into this new phase of architectural design, is it worth while bothering about the past at all? That is a question which anybody may well ask, if he is about to address his attention to the study of architecture, either in an amateur or a professional capacity. Sir Christopher Wren once said, "Building certainly ought to have the Attribute of Eternal, and therefore the only Thing uncapable of new Fashions." There are certain basic principles of architecture which are common to all ages and climes. "History for the student of architecture is a record of experiments of which he cannot afford to be ignorant. The architect of to-day, however 'modern' he may think himself, is equally part of the historical process."<sup>1</sup>

To-day, students in architectural schools do not devote much of their time, if, indeed, they devote any, to studying the classic Orders of Architecture. Growing up in the commercial machine age, when stimulating social and economic experiments are being made in the world, and the copious dissatisfactions of the people in every country are being potently expressed in revolutions and wars, or by militant but largely uncreative criticisms of existing institutions, it is natural that such studies, with their antiquarian flavour, should seem less significant than the economic and even political aspects of architectural design. This lively regard for the social function of archi-

<sup>1</sup> *The Shorter Dictionary of Architecture*, by Robert Atkinson and Hope Bagenal, Vol. I, p. 111.

#### A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

tecture is a healthier condition of mind than a scholarly obsession with the nice details of the Classic Orders, which was the rule, over thirty years ago, when the writer was studying architecture. In those days the range of our familiar knowledge was condensed in these lines:

“Corinthian cauliflower  
Scrolls Ionic,  
All the rest Doric!”

Architecture is arising all around us; we cannot escape from it, we cannot ignore it, and if more people took a critical interest in it, better architecture would be encouraged. Our architecture will not attain greatness until, to repeat the words of Lisle March Phillipps, “it has behind it a combined and united effort.” The layman, as well as the student who hopes to make architecture his profession, has an obligation to study its nature, its growth and its powers.

Miss Ware and her collaborator, Miss Beatty, have by their selective work and admirable illustrations in this dictionary certainly made the life of the architectural student, professional or amateur, very much easier.

## AUTHOR'S NOTE

A SHORT bibliography appears at the end of this dictionary, and by studying these books, and many others of a similar nature which exist, anyone who desires to learn more about architecture has a very adequate opportunity. Such a student, however, will find no concise and brief dictionary which he may use side by side with such reading, and it was my discovery of this lack that urged me to put together this dictionary. Apart from the glossaries contained in such authoritative works as Sir Banister Fletcher's *History of Architecture on the Comparative Method*, T. D. Atkinson's *Glossary of English Architecture*, and J. H. Parker's *Concise Glossary*, I could discover nothing which combined the terms used in classical architecture with the more common building terms in use to-day. I have tried to provide something that will be of practical help to both professional and amateur students of architecture, as well as to those who come into contact with the subject in the course of their work. I hope, too, that my book may contribute something towards a sounder knowledge of an art which has a fundamental influence upon humanity.

D. W.

September 1943

## AUTHORS' NOTE TO THE THIRD, REVISED EDITION

THE generous reception which has been given to this dictionary has encouraged us to prepare a revised and enlarged edition, which, though it obviously cannot contain all the terms which our readers will think of, may, we hope, make the book a more useful tool. We are very grateful to all those who have made suggestions for improvements, and who have implemented their criticisms with practical help.

In this third edition, the definitions number over 1,100, and the drawings have been revised and added to: the layout and arrangement of the pages have been altered, and the bibliography expanded.

The temptation to include a certain number of obsolete and fascinating terms has not been resisted, but there are many more of these in the older books listed in the bibliography, where they may be found by those whose interest is not confined to severely practical aspects.

D. W.  
B. B.

July 1952

# A Short Dictionary of Architecture

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## A

### **Abacus**

The flat upper member of a capital. (*See* illustration of orders.)

### **Abutment or Butment**

The masonry which supports the weight and takes the thrust of an arch below the springing line. (*See* illustration of arch.)

### **Acanthus**

A form of carved ornament based on the leaves of the acanthus plant, and found on Corinthian and Composite capitals, and in the enrichment of mouldings. (*See* illustration.)



### **Access**

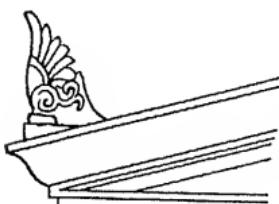
A passage or corridor between two rooms; in building construction this term denotes points at which concealed services can be reached for inspection and repair.

### **Acoustic Tiles**

Sound-absorbent material in the form of tiles.

### **Acropolis**

The citadel which contained the chief temples and public buildings of a Greek city, and which was built at its highest point.



ACROTERION

### **Acroterion**

A block of stone resting on the top or ends of a pediment, to form a base for figures or carved ornament. (*See* illustration.)

### **Acute Arch**

Another term for a lancet arch.

### **Adze**

A cutting tool for woodworking, having a curved blade set at right angles to the handle.

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

### Adzed Work

A timber surface that has been trimmed flat by an adze, but left unplaned.

### Aedicula

A shrine framed by columns and a pediment, set in a temple, and containing a statue. The word also means a small cabinet of similar construction, standing in the court of a Roman house, and containing images or busts of household gods or ancestors. Where a door or window opening is supported by columns and crowned by a pediment, it is said to be aedicule.

### Aggregate

In building, that part of concrete which is bound together by a cement matrix.

### Air Brick

A specially perforated brick which provides ventilation through a wall.

### Air Grate

A type of air brick made of stone or metal.

### Aisle

An open space in a church, parallel with the nave. (*See* illustration of basilican church.)

### Alabaster

A form of gypsum with a marble-like appearance, sometimes white, sometimes veined with reddish-brown.

### Alcove

A recessed space in a wall.

### Ambo

A pulpit placed at the side of a choir in a church. Normally, there are two, one on either side, the Gospel being read from one and the Epistle from the other.

### Ambry or Aumbry

A small recess in a church, to hold sacred vessels, often built into the thickness of the wall in the form of a cupboard.

### Ambulatory

The covered way surrounding a cloister; the aisle round the east end of a church, behind the altar. (*See also* xystus.)

**Amphi-prostyle**

The term applied to a temple which has a portico at each end.

**Amphitheatre**

An oval space, surrounded by rising tiers of seats, first used for gladiatorial displays.

**Anchor Bolt**

A long iron bolt used in the construction of cornices and pinnacles in order to increase stability.

**Ancones**

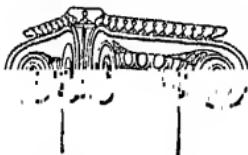
Brackets on either side of a doorway, which support the cornice; sometimes known as consoles or modillions.

**Angle-iron**

A bar of metal, usually rolled mild steel, of L section. (*See illustration.*)



ANGLE-IRON



ANGULAR CAPITAL

**Angular Capital**

A form of Ionic capital, in which all four sides are alike. (*See illustration.*)

**Annulet**

A small flat band encircling a column. (*See illustration of Greek orders.*)

**Anodizing**

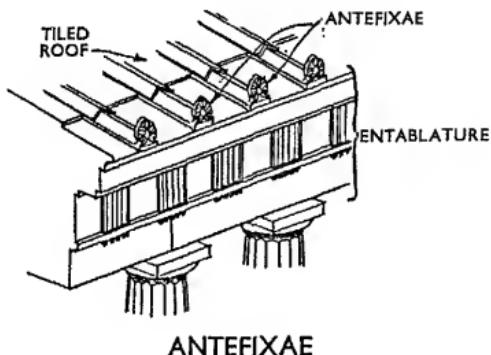
The creation, by an electro-chemical process, of a hard, protective oxide film.

**Anta**

A pilaster, in which the base and capital do not conform with the other columns in the building, and usually placed at the end of a side wall.

**Antefixa**

Ornamental blocks fixed on the lower edge of a roof in order to conceal the ends of tiles. (*See* illustration.)

**ANTEFIXAE****Anthemion**

A form of decoration, based on the honeysuckle flower and leaves, and found in many varieties in Greek and Roman architecture. (*See* illustration.)

**Antiquarian**

The name given to drawing paper of a standard size of 53 in. by 31 in.

**ANTHEMION****Antique Bevel or Vauxhall Bevel**

A wide shallow bevel on the surface edge of a sheet of glass or a mirror. The alternative name of Vauxhall bevel is probably derived from its use in the 17th-century Vauxhall glass-works. (*See* Vauxhall glass.)

**Antisyphonage Pipe**

A pipe carried from the outer side of a trap to the open air in order to prevent the trap being unsealed by syphonage when other sanitary fittings connected to the same soil or waste pipe are used.

**Apex Stone**

The top stone in a gable end; sometimes called a saddle stone.

**Apophyge**

The slight curve found at the top of a column, where the shaft joins the capital, and at the bottom where the shaft joins the fillet at the base.

**Apron or Apron Piece**

*See* cover flashing.

**Apse**

A semi-circular extension of the eastern end of a church. (*See illustration of basilican church.*)

**Apteral**

The term applied to a building which has columns at the ends but not at the sides.

**Aqueduct**

An artificial channel or a bridge for carrying water: or for carrying a navigable canal across a valley, railway cutting, etc.

**Arabesque**

Intricate surface decoration, generally based on complex geometrical patterns; this kind of decoration was originated by Arabian artists.

**Araeostyle**

The term applied to an arrangement of columns in which the space between each is three and a half times the diameter of one column.

**Arcade**

A row of columns supporting a series of arches, and either joined to a building or standing free.

**Arch**

An arrangement of wedge-shaped masonry, or bricks, built over an opening in a wall, in such a manner that the arch is self-supporting and will also take weight imposed on it. (*See illustration on page 6.*)

**Arch Brick**

A special brick shaped to the form of a voussoir.

**Arch Rib**

A projecting band on the line of an arch in vaulting. (*See illustration of ribbed vaulting on page 101.*)

**Architectonic**

Pertaining to the science of architecture and the application of architectural principles.

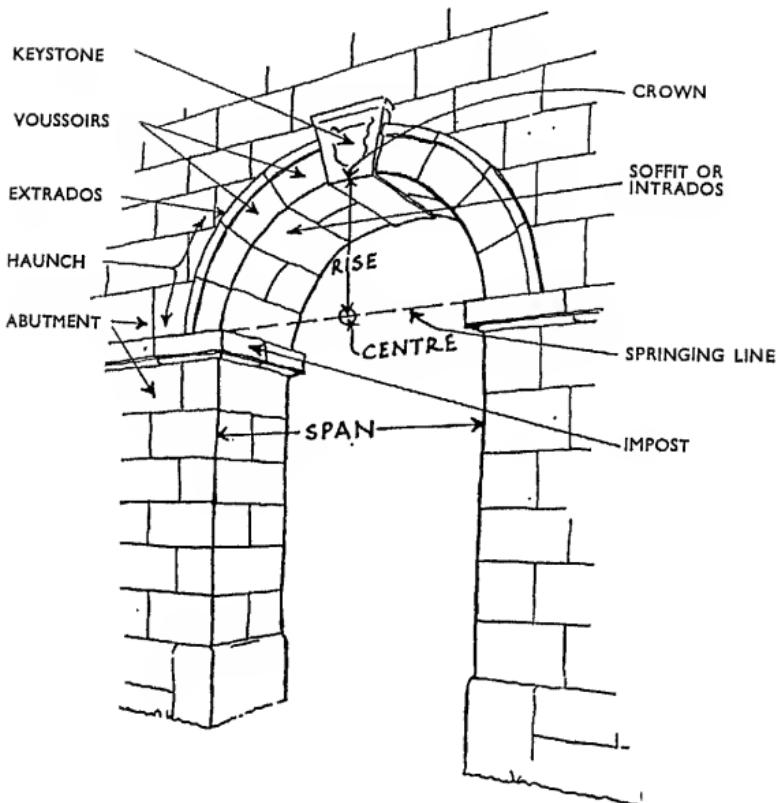
**Architrave**

The lowest member of an entablature; the term is also applied to the moulded frame surrounding a door or window. (*See illustration of Greek orders, and door.*)

**Architrave Block**

*See plinth block.*

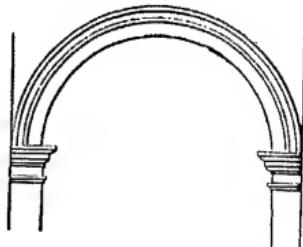
## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE



**PARTS OF AN ARCH**

### **Archivolt**

The mouldings and ornamentation on the face of an arch. (See illustration.)



**ARCHIVOLT**

### **Area**

The extent of a building site; also an enclosed yard which gives light and air to a basement or the inner part of a large building.

### **Arris**

The sharp edge formed by the meeting of two straight or curved surfaces.

**Asbestos**

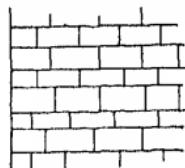
A fibrous mineral used in the manufacture of many building materials and fabrics, and possessing fire-resisting and insulating properties.

**Asbestos Cement**

A fire-resisting material composed of fiberized asbestos and Portland cement.

**Ashlar or Ashler**

Walling, in which carefully finished blocks of stone, usually large, are used in courses with fine joints. (*See illustration.*)



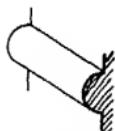
ASHLAR WALLING

**Ashlaring**

Upright boarding fixed across the acute angle formed by the meeting of roof and floor in an attic.

**Asphalt**

A mastic material having natural rock asphalt as an essential constituent, used for paving, and as a waterproof membrane or damp-proof course.



**Astragal**

A small, semi-circular moulding or bead. (*See also tondino. See illustration.*)

**ASTRAGAL  
OR BEAD**

**Astyler**

The term applied to a façade without columns or pilasters.

**Atlantes**

Carved male figures used instead of columns to support an entablature; sometimes called telamones. (*See illustration.*)

**Atrium**

In Roman houses, a space or court at the entrance, open to the sky but surrounded on all sides by the roof. Later it came to mean the open space in front of the entrance to a building.

**Attic**

A room built within the sloping roof of a house.

**Attic Base**

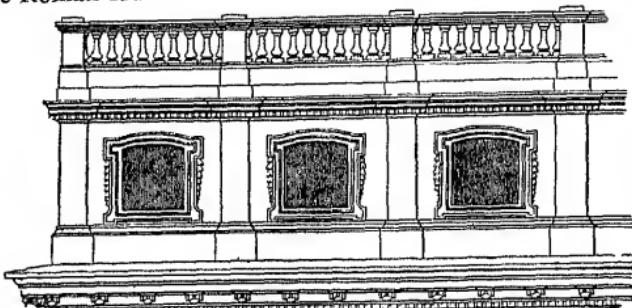
A column base formed by a scotia moulding between two torus



ATLANTA

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

mouldings, and found in the Greek Ionic and Corinthian orders, and in the Roman orders.



ATTIC ORDER

### Attic or Attick Order

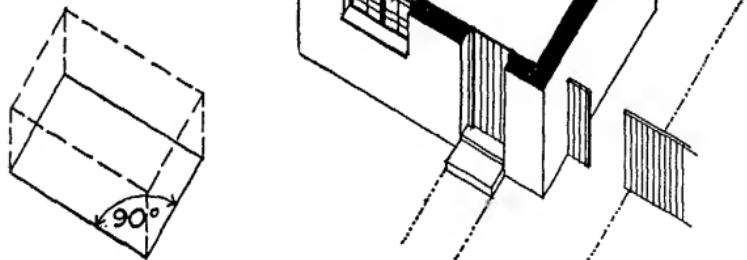
A term describing a so-called order of low pilasters, placed over the cornice of a building. Isaac Ware includes the term in *A Complete Body of Architecture*, and remarks: ". . . we see them sometimes brought in very monstrously, to the disgrace of the architect, and disfiguring of the edifice." (See illustration.)

### Aureole

A halo surrounding a sacred figure.

### Axonometric Projection

A geometrical drawing to show an object in three dimensions. The plan is set up truly, turned to a



AXONOMETRIC PROJECTION

convenient angle, and verticals projected from it to scale. With this method all dimensions on a horizontal plane and all verticals are to scale. Diagonals and curves on a vertical plane are distorted. (See illustrations.)

B

**Back Hearth**

The stone, brick or cement surface which floors a fireplace interior, upon which the grate stands or the fire is built direct.

**Baffle**

An iron plate fixed above a gas fire to prevent fragments of mortar falling on the fire; or a similar plate which, when fixed in an appropriate position, prevents the passage of down draughts or vibration. The term also denotes a form of cage fixed high in a geyser flue, to prevent foul air being blown back by a down draught.

**Bailey**

A court in a fortified medieval castle, lying between the outer walls and the keep.

**Balanced Winders**

*See dancing steps.*

**Balcony**

A narrow platform projecting from the face of a building above ground level.

**Baldachino**

A canopy supported on columns, over an altar or tomb; also called a ciborium.

**Bale's Catch or Ball Catch**

A type of automatic catch used for the doors of cupboards, etc. It works by means of a metal ball with a spring which pushes it into a corresponding hole in a plate.

**Ball Flower**

A circular carved ornament, having the appearance of a split horse-chestnut fruit, and typical of Decorated Gothic architecture. (*See illustration.*)



**Ballast**

A popular, loose term for stone and aggregate used for concrete.

BALL FLOWER

**Ballcock or Ball Valve**

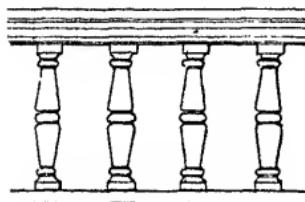
A valve or cock to control the level of water in a cistern or tank. It is operated by a lever arm with a floating ball which presses a plunger against its seating when the water reaches the prescribed level.

**Balloon Framing**

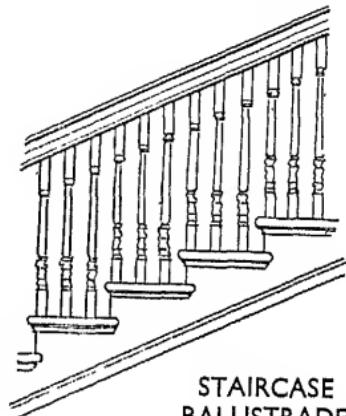
A type of timber framing for houses, in which the horizontal members are fixed to vertical members which continue straight up through the building.

**Baluster**

A small individual column in a balustrade; also a vertical member supporting a handrail. (*See* illustration.)



BALUSTRADE



STAIRCASE  
BALUSTRADE

**Balustrade**

A railing consisting of a series of balusters resting on a base and supporting a continuous horizontal member. (*See* illustration.)

**Band**

A continuous flat ornamental panel on a surface, generally a wall. Also a moulding encircling the shaft of a column.

**Band and Gudgeon**

The name of a long hinge, in which the band is of wrought iron and the gudgeon is the pin, fixed into brick or stone, on which it rotates. (*See also* band and hook.)

**Band and Hook**

The term used for a band and gudgeon hinge, when the pin is fixed into some material other than brick or stone.

**Bandlet or Bandelet**

A slender band.

**Banister**

A common term for baluster, generally applied to the thin iron or wooden balusters on stairs.

**Banquet or Banquette**

A footpath at the side of a bridge, joined to the parapet, and raised above the road level. The term is also used for a recessed window seat.

**Bar Tracery**

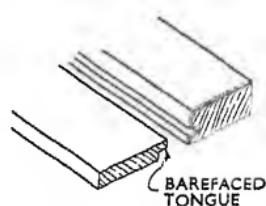
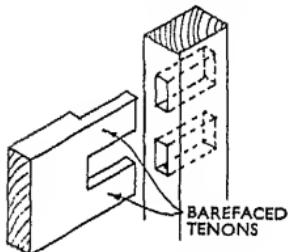
A development that followed and replaced plate tracery. Bar tracery consisted of shaped members that branched out from the mullions to form interlacing patterns at the head of a window.

**Barbican**

A small tower or fort built outside a castle or town to form a first line of defence.

**Barefaced Tenon**

A tenon shouldered on one side only. (*See* illustration.)

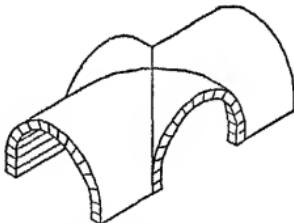


**Barefaced Tongue**

A tongue flush on one side of a board. (*See* illustration.)

**Bargeboard**

The woodwork covering the joint between a gable end and the roofing material. (*See* illustration.)



**BARREL VAULT WITH  
INTERSECTING VAULT**

**Baroque**

The term applied to the elaborate architectural styles that developed in different countries in the later Renaissance during the 17th century.

**Barrel Vault**

A roof formed by a continuous rounded arch above a space. Sometimes called a wagon vault. (*See* illustration.)

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

### Bartizan

A hanging turret on a tower.

### Base

The lowest member of any structure or architectural feature.  
(See illustration of orders.)

### Base Block

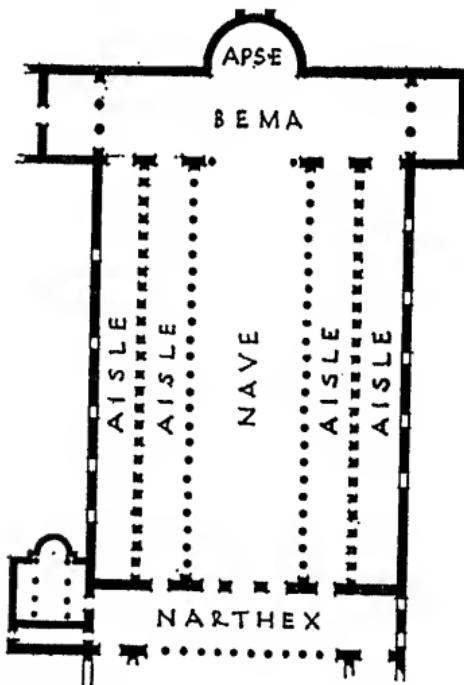
The squared-up termination, a few inches above floor level, of a door or window architrave, or of the moulding which surrounds a fireplace opening. (See illustration of door.)

### Basement

The lowest storey in a building, partly or wholly below ground level.

### Basilica

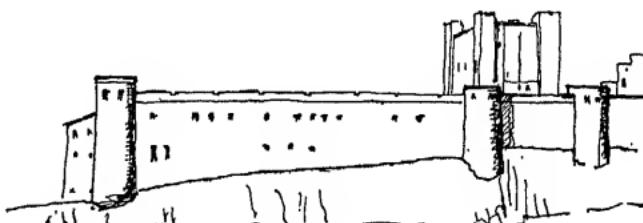
A large hall used by the Romans for public administration; many basilicas became Christian churches. (See illustration.)



DIAGRAMMATIC PLAN OF A BASILICAN CHURCH

**Bastion**

A projection from the walls of a fortification, for the defence of the walls. (*See* illustration.)



BASTIONED WALL

**Bat**

The name given to part of a brick, either a three-quarter, half or quarter bat, referring to a three-quarter, half or quarter brick.

**Bath Stone**

Limestone from the Bath district, of very fine grain, cream in colour; though soft when quarried, it hardens on exposure.

**Batten**

A narrow strip of wood.

**Batten and Button**

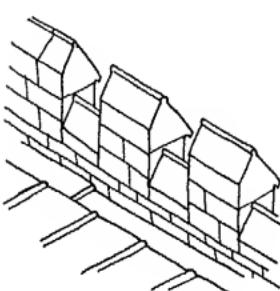
A method of jointing boards, to avoid warping.

**Batter**

A slope or inclination of a face of a wall.

**Battlement**

A crenellated parapet. (*See* illustration.)



BATTLEMENT

**Bay**

One of a number of divisions of a roof or building.

**Bay Leaf Garland**

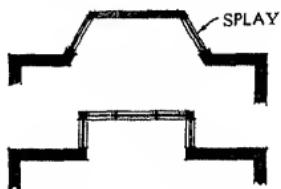
A form of enrichment often applied to a torus moulding. (*See* illustration.)



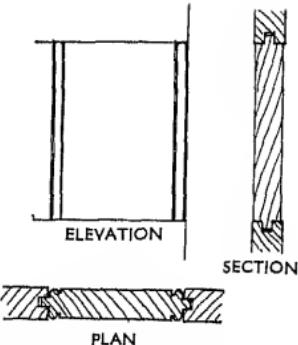
BAY LEAF GARLAND ENRICHMENT  
OF TORUS

**Bay Window**

A window which projects from the ground floor of a building, and may continue up to the second or third storey. (*See* illustration.)



PLANS OF BAY WINDOWS



BEAD AND BUTT PANEL

**Bead**

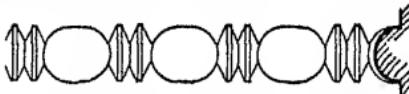
A small circular moulding.

**Bead and Butt**

A panel that is flush with a framework, a bead moulding being struck on the edges of the panel where it butts against the stiles. (*See* illustration.)

**Bead and Reel**

A moulding enrichment, the design based on a string of alternate beads and reels. (*See* illustration.)



BEAD AND REEL ENRICHMENT OF ASTRAGAL

**Bead Flush**

The term applied when a bead runs right round a panel.

**Beak Head**

An enrichment of a Norman moulding, based on the beak and head of a bird. A variation, having a tongue instead of a beak, is known as cat's head. (*See* illustration.)



BEAK HEAD MOULDING

**Beam**

A horizontal structural member which carries a load.

**Beam Filling**

The upper part of a wall built between the rafters and up to the roofing material.

**Bed Mould**

Any small moulding lying under a projection.

**Belfast Truss**

A type of truss, used in shed roofs and for large spans; the truss consists of two members, one horizontal and one curved, joined by lattices. This form of construction is sometimes called a bowstring truss.

**Belfry**

A room at the top of a bell tower, where the bells are usually hung.

**Bell**

The solid part or body of a capital, which in the Corinthian and Composite orders is covered by decorative foliage.

**Bell-Cot or Bell-Cote**

A turret at the west end of a towerless church, in which one or more bells are hung. Many are Early English, and are sometimes known as bell-gables or bell-turrets. (See illustration.)

**Bell-Gable**

See bell-cot.

**Bell-Turret**

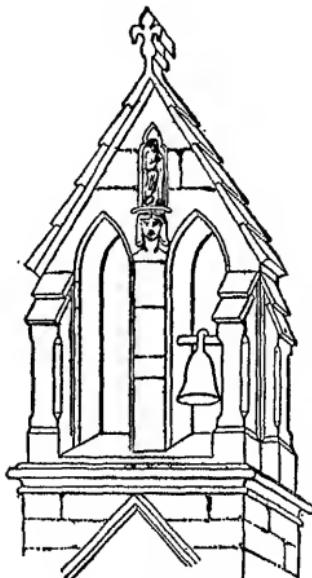
See bell-cot.

**Bema**

A raised area between the apse and the head of the nave, in early Christian churches, and from which the transept later developed. (See illustration of basilican church.)

**Bench End**

The upright end enclosing a pew, either plain or terminating in a finial or poppyhead.



BELL-COT

**Bevel**

A slanting or inclined surface, usually on an edge; a tool which may be set to any desired angle.

**Bib Tap or Bib Valve**

A tap or valve joined to a horizontal feed, e.g. a tap fixed to a wall.

**Bib-cock**

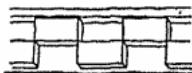
A simple form of draw-off tap, also known as a plug-cock, of similar construction to a gas tap.

**Bill of Quantities**

A document prepared by a quantity surveyor, consisting of a list of items giving in detail the quantities and descriptions of the various materials and labour required for a building. It is based on information shown on the architect's drawings and described in his specification.

**Billet**

A form of enrichment consisting of short cylinders or blocks, common in Norman architecture. (*See* illustration.)



BILLET ORNAMENT



BIRD'S BEAK MOULDING

**Binder**

A timber girder which supports the bridging joists used in the construction of large floors.

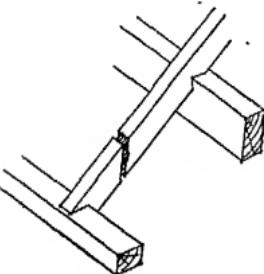
**Bird's Beak**

A Greek supporting moulding, having the appearance of a downward curving bird's beak. (*See* illustration.)

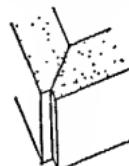
**Birdsmouth**

A notch in a diagonal timber member such as a rafter, to form a joint with a purlin or plate. (*See* illustration.)

The term also describes a way of finishing an external angle in stone, marble or similar facing materials, to overcome the risk of breaking the sharp edges. (*See* illustration.)



BIRDsmouth



**Blind Storey**

*See triforium.*

**Blind Tracery**

Ornamental carving on a solid wooden surface, typical work of the Gothic period.

**Block Capital**

*See cushion capital.*

**Block-in Course**

A type of stone wall construction, with good joints, used where great strength and soundness are required.

**Block Out**

*See boasted work.*

**Blocking Course**

A course of masonry built above a cornice.

**Bloom Base**

A solid steel base to a stanchion, as distinct from a gusseted base.

**Blue Lias Lime**

Hydraulic lime manufactured from liassic limestone.

**Boasted Work**

A description for an unfinished capital or similar member, in which the preliminary shaping or cutting has been accomplished, so that the eventual form can be seen clearly, but in which the final details are incomplete. This is sometimes known as blocking-out.



BOLECTION  
MOULDING

**Bolection Moulding**

A moulding that covers the joint between two members with surfaces at different levels, and projects beyond both surfaces. (*See* illustration.)

**Bond**

The arrangement in which bricks, masonry or other building blocks are laid, so that the vertical joints in adjoining courses do not lie directly above or under each other. The principal bonds are stretching, English, and Flemish.

**Bond-Timber**

A horizontal wooden member built into a wall in order to strengthen it, and to which battens may be fixed.

**Bonder**

A long stone running right through the thickness of a wall.

**Bonding Brick**

A specially shaped brick which ties the two sides of a hollow wall.

**Bondstone**

A stone which joins the coping above a gable to the upper surface of a wall.

**Bonnet**

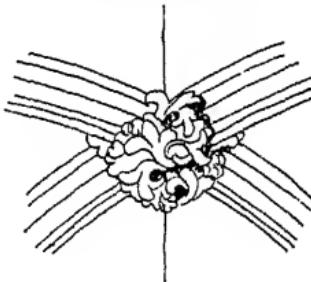
The term applied to a roof over a bay window. Another meaning is the wire covering fixed over a chimney top to prevent the entry of birds.

**Bonnet Hip Tile**

A curved tile fixed at the hips of a roof. (*See illustration.*)



HIP WITH BONNET  
TILES



BOSS

**Boss**

An ornament covering the intersection point of the ribs in a roof. (*See illustration.*)

**Bottom Panel**

The lowest panel of a door. (*See illustration of door.*)

**Bottom Rail**

The lowest horizontal member of a door or a window frame. (*See illustrations of door and window.*)

**Boultin**

An archaic word for an ovolo moulding.



PLAN OF BOW  
WINDOW

**Bow Window**

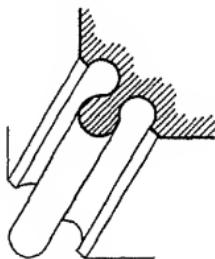
A curved bay window. (*See illustration.*)

**Bowstring Truss**

*See Belfast truss.*

**Bowtell**

A convex moulding on an angle, usually about three-quarters of a circle in section, and used a good deal in Norman work. (*See* illustration.)



BOWTELL

**Box Gutter**

A horizontal gutter formed where two adjoining sloping roof surfaces meet; similar to a parapet gutter.

**Box Pew**

*See* pew.

**Brace**

A diagonal strut or stiffener: this term is commonly used for all diagonals in timber partitions and trusses.

**Bracket**

In architecture, another term for an ancone or console: in building, a projecting support.

**Bracket Cornice**

A cornice which includes consoles or modillions to carry the upper mouldings.

**Bracketed Stairs**

In stairs of this kind, the string has the same shape as the steps, and brackets are fixed under the treads at the nosing returns.

**Brattishing**

A form of cresting consisting of a decorated leaf design, used as the ornamental parapet of a wall, or as the finish at the top of Early Tudor screens or panelling; also known as Tudor flower.

**Breastsummer or Bressummer**

A beam which supports a wall over a wide opening.

**Breeze Blocks**

Building blocks made of coke breeze concrete.

**Breeze Bricks**

Bricks of the same thickness, width and length as ordinary bricks, made of coke breeze concrete; joinery can be nailed or screwed to these bricks.

**Breeze Lintels**

Coke breeze concrete lintels, possessing the same qualities as breeze bricks, but considerably less strength than ordinary concrete lintels.

**Bressummer**

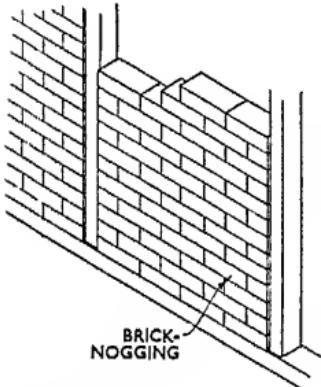
*See* breastsummer.

**Brick**

A clay block, moulded and burnt, and possessing considerable qualities of rigidity, durability and resistance. The standard size brick is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in. by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. by either 2 in.,  $2\frac{1}{8}$  in. or  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. Among the most common types are: Blue (or Engineering), Fletton, Glazed, London Stock and Sand Lime. There are also many kinds of facing bricks.

**Brick-Nogging**

The term used when bricks are employed in the construction of a partition, to fill the spaces between the studs. (*See* illustration.)



**Brilliant-Cutting**

A form of decoration used on plate glass, and carried out by means of a wheel which makes various types of cut on the glass; these may be smoothed or polished.

**Broach**

The pyramidal member which covers the triangular space left at the corner of a square tower which supports a broach spire.

**Broach Spire**

An octagonal spire on a square tower which has no parapet.

**Building Block**

A hollow block made from extruded burnt clay, terracotta or concrete.

**Building Board, Wallboard**

Material manufactured in sheets from re-pulped paper, shredded wood, or other vegetable products, or from gypsum or other plaster composition faced with paper, and used for many purposes in building. (*See also* fibre board, hardboard, insulating board, plaster-board and semi-hardboard.)

**Building Line**

The line defining the minimum distance of buildings from a street, or defining the line of frontages.

**Bullion or Bull's Eye**

The circular distortion in the centre of a disc of Crown glass, caused by the blowing process originally used in its manufacture; also a circular or oval window.

**Burrs**

Masses of vitrified brick, sometimes used for rough walling.

**Butment**

*See* abutment.

**Butt**

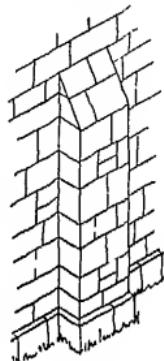
A hinge in which the two parts abut when closed.

**Butt Joint**

The joint formed by two members fixed together end to end.

**Buttress**

A support built against, joined to, and projecting from a wall, to resist pressure exerted by a member on the other side of the wall. (*See* illustration.)



BUTTRESS

**Byzantine Architecture**

The style of architecture that developed in the Eastern Roman Empire, and was based on a considerable and imaginative use of the dome and the rounded arch. It perpetuated some of the forms of Roman Classic architecture, but varied considerably in ornamental detail.

C

**Cable**

An enrichment representing twisted ropes, used on Norman mouldings. (*See* illustration.)



CABLE MOULDING



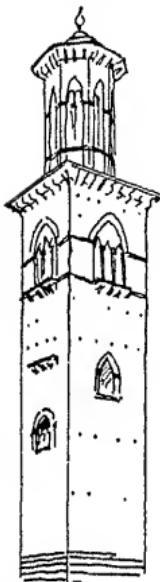
COFFERED CEILING

**Caissons**

A series of sunk panels in a ceiling or dome; also called coffers or lacunaria. (*See* illustration.) Also, a case used to keep out water during under-water building operations.

**Caliduct**

A flue or conduit for hot air or fluids. The term was invented by Sir Henry Wotton, who, in *Elements of Architecture*, wrote: "... pipes that come through the walls transporting heat . . . I am ready to baptize them Cali-ducts. . . ."



CAMPANILE

**Camber**

A slight convex curve.

**Camber Arch**

A nearly flat arch with a slight rise to avoid the appearance of sagging.

**Camber Beam**

A beam raised in the centre of a truncated roof, to enable rainwater to be thrown off at the sides.

**Came**

The metal strip used for leaded lights.

**Campanile**

A bell tower, usually detached from the main building. (See illustration.)

**Canephora**

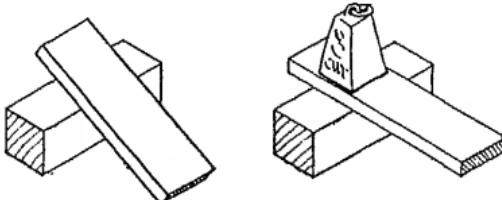
A sculptured female figure with a basket supported on the head.

**Canopy**

A covering fixed or suspended above an altar, tomb or pulpit. It is also the name given to a projection in the form of a hood or roof over a doorway, or a continuous projection on a building, sheltering the pavement.

**Cantilever**

A beam or slab supported at one end only, and counterbalanced. To cantilever is to employ the principle of a lever to carry a load. (See illustration.)



THE CANTILEVER PRINCIPLE

**Cap**

The topmost member of the pedestal in a Classical order; also a piece covering the top of an upright member. (*See* illustration of Roman orders.)

**Capital**

The moulded or sculptured head of a column. (*See* illustration of orders.)

**Capping**

A top covering or protecting moulding, such as a coping or handrail.

**Carcase or Carcass**

The chief structural members of a building, as they appear before the remaining construction is completed. This term is also used in cabinet-making, and is defined in Gloag's *Short Dictionary of Furniture* as: "The basic, box-like body of a piece of furniture, without doors, drawers or fittings."

**Carcassing**

In a building, this term describes the preparatory arrangements for carpentry, and also the layout of the gas pipes.

**Carriage or Carriage Piece**

A sloping member lying under the centre of a flight of wooden stairs, to give additional support.

**Carry-up**

An old expression, still in use, meaning to build up to its intended height, a wall or similar vertical structure.

**Cartouche**

A stone, wood or metal tablet that bears an inscription, often shaped like a sheet of paper with curling or folded edges, and surrounded by ornate decoration. The term is occasionally used to describe a modillion.

**Caryatid**

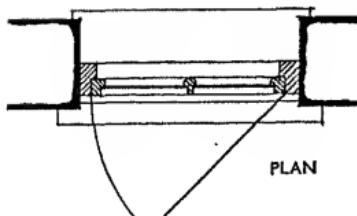
A sculptured female figure, sometimes used in place of a column. (*See* illustration.)

**Casement Sash**

A hinged or pivoted sash.



CARYATID



CASEMENT WINDOW

**Casement Window**

A window having casement sashes. (*See* illustration.)

**Cast in situ**

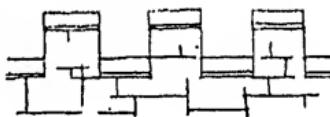
The term applied to concrete or plaster members cast in the positions they will finally occupy.

**Cast Stone**

*See* reconstructed stone.

**Castellated**

A term applied to any battlemented parapet or roof; also sometimes applied to the ornamental moulding that in 15th- and 16th-century woodwork separates the paneling from the frieze, the moulding forming a continuous pattern of miniature battlements. (*See* illustration.)



CASTELLATE

**Cat Ladder**

A vertical ladder giving access to a loft or service space, or between levels in a boiler-room, etc. A ladder across a sloping roof.

**Cat Walk**

A narrow walking way installed to give access to mechanical services; for example, across a ceiling between roof trusses.

**Cat's Head**

*See* beak head.

**Cathedral Glass**

A translucent glass, with one surface textured, so that vision through the glass is partially obscured.

**Caulicoli**

The stalks supporting the volutes on a Corinthian capital; two of these stalks appear on each face of the capital. Sometimes referred to as helices, on account of their snail-like appearance. (*See also* urella.)



CAVETTO

**Cavetto**

A hollow moulding, sometimes called a gorge. A term used by 18th-century builders was mouth. (*See* illustration.)

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

### Cavity Wall

This consists of two brick walls, 2 to 3 in. apart and tied together by metal ties or special bricks; also called a hollow wall.

### Ceiling

The timber or plaster surface which covers the under side of a roof or floor, and conceals the structural members. The word is derived from the verb, to ceil, meaning to line a roof.

### Ceiling Joist

The joist to which a ceiling is fixed.

### Ceiling Light

A glazed opening in a ceiling, often below a skylight.

### Ceilure

*See* cellure.

### Cella

The main body of a temple, enclosed on three sides by walls, and occupying the complete width of the building.

### Cellure or Ceilure

A term for the panelled, plastered and ornamented ceiling of a wagon roof, above an altar.

### Cement

A natural or artificial lime compound, burnt and ground.

### Cement Mortar

A mortar composed of cement, sand and water.

### Centering

The wooden framework used in arch construction, which is removed when the mortar has set.

### Centre

In arch construction, the centre is the point from which any curve of the arch is struck. (*See* illustration of arch.)

### Certificate

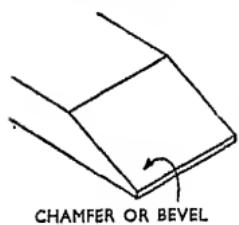
A document issued and signed by an architect or a consulting engineer, which states that a specific amount of work has been done by a builder, and that he is entitled to receive a specific sum of money from the client who has commissioned the work.

**Chair Rail**

A term sometimes applied to a dado rail, so called because it prevents chairs, when pushed back against a wall, from damaging the surface.

**Chamfer**

A flat planed surface formed at the point where two surfaces meet. This term is usually applied to stone or wood surfaces, while a *bevelled* surface refers to glass or metal. (*See* illustration.)



**Chancel**

The part of a church used by the clergy and choir; it lies at the east end between the altar and nave, and is sometimes separated from the nave by a screen.

**Channel**

A continuous depression in a surface; also a form of rolled steel.

**Channel Pipe**

A halved pipe forming a channel.

**Chase**

A long recess formed in brickwork, masonry or concrete, in order to accommodate service pipes, etc.

**Check or Check Throating**

A groove in the underside of a sill or any projecting moulding, which forms a drip or check and stops water running back to the main face of the building; also called a throating.

**Chequer Work**

The term describing a wall built with stone and another material such as brick, giving a chessboard effect.

**Chevet**

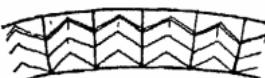
An apse, circular or many-sided, around which there is an ambulatory with chapels.

**Chevron**

A zig-zag moulding. Sometimes known as a dancette moulding. (*See* illustration.)

**Chimney Bar**

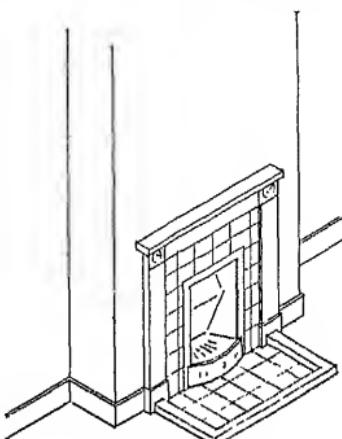
The bar on which the front of a chimney breast is carried, above the fireplace opening.



CHEVRON

**Chimney Breast**

The stone or brick structure, projecting into a room, which accommodates the fireplace and the flue.  
(See illustration.)



CHIMNEY BREAST

**Chimney Shaft**

A high chimney which has only one flue.

**Chimney Stack**

The brickwork forming a flue or series of flues, which ascends through all the storeys of a building, rising above the roof level and terminating in chimney pots of various types.

**Choir**

The chancel of a church.

**Chromium Plating**

A thin skin of chromium deposited electrolytically on another metal, giving resistance to corrosion.

**Chuff**

A brick which cannot be used for building, on account of extensive cracking incurred during manufacture.

**Ciborium**

*See* baldachino.

**Cill**

*See* sill.

**Cima Recta**

*See* cyma recta.

**Cimborio**

A lantern in a roof, which admits light into a building.

**Cincture**

A bead or listel moulding on the shaft of a column.



**Cinquefoil**

A form of tracery, consisting of five points separated from each other by cusps.

**Circle Valley**

*See swept valley.*

**Cistern**

A metal, open-topped, rectangular container for cold water.

**Cladding**

The external covering of a frame construction building.

**Clapboards**

The term usually applied in the United States and Canada to weatherboarding. The word is derived from *clobord*, literally a cloven board; the cleaving of timber was the method of forming wooden boards before the introduction of power-driven saws.

**Classical Architecture**

Architecture designed in accordance with the rules and proportions of the Greek and Roman orders.

**Cleaning Hinge**

A hinge designed to give a wide enough clearance between a window frame and a casement sash, when open, to allow the window to be cleaned from the inside: also called an extension hinge.

**Clearstory or Clerestory**

A range of windows in the upper part of a building, which give extra light to the interior, over adjacent roofs.

**Cleat**

A batten or clamp fixed to a rafter, or used in joinery, to give extra strength. It may also be a small member projecting from a surface to support a bracket. In steelwork, a cleat is a supporting bracket.

**Clench**

*See clinch.*

**Clinch or Clench**

To bend over the points of nails projecting through timber, and to punch them below the face of the timber.

**Cloisters**

A covered passage round a court, and separated from it by columns or arches. Cloisters usually connected a church with the chapter house and other parts of a monastery.

**Closer**

A brick which is cut or trimmed to give a proper bonding, e.g. at angles and openings.

**Clunch**

A term variously used for a stiff clay or chalk, or a soft limestone.

**Clustered Column**

A column formed by four or five shafts joined together, and springing from a common base and ending in a common capital. (*See* illustration.)

**Coachscrew**

A large, square-headed screw.

**Coade Stone**

An artificial building stone which was successfully put on the market in the early 1770's by Mrs. Eleanor Coade, who later took into partnership a man named Seely. It was widely used for sculptures, monuments and ornamentally on buildings, during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The carefully guarded secret of its composition has never been divulged, though it is believed to contain some kind of terracotta.

**Coarse Stuff**

The first coat applied in plastering, consisting of rough mortar and hair.

**Cob**

A material made of straw and unburnt clay, formerly used in building walls.

**Cockle Stairs**

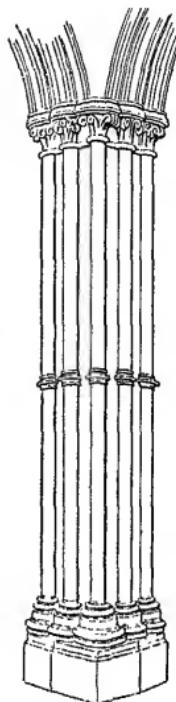
An archaic term for spiral stairs. It is used in Wotton's *Elements of Architecture*.

**Coffers**

*See* caissons.

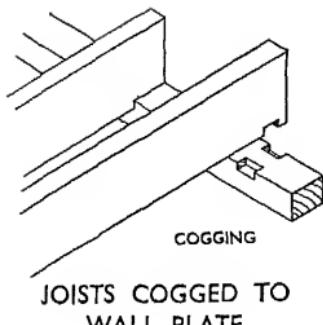
**Cogging**

A term used in joinery when timbers cross each other and the



CLUSTERED  
COLUMN

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE



lower member is cut so that a projection fits into a slot on the underside of the upper member. (See illustration.)

### Coke Breeze Concrete

A material consisting of 4 parts of breeze to 1 part of Portland cement, and which will take nails and screws.

### Collar

A member tying two common rafters.

### Collar Beam

The wood tie fixed to the principal rafters above wallplate level, in a collar roof.

### Collar Roof

A roof in which wood ties are fixed to the rafters above wallplate level; a ceiling may be attached to the underside of these ties, so that the ceiling of a room under a collar roof has three surfaces, two sloping which correspond with the angle of the rafters, linked by a flat surface which is carried on the underside of the ties.

### Colonnade

A series of columns.

### Colonnette

A little column.

### Column

An upright supporting member, circular in plan, and in Classical architecture consisting of base, shaft and capital. (See illustration of orders.)

### Columna Rostrata

A column ornamented with a carved *motif* of ships' prows.

### Commode Step

A step, usually at the bottom of a flight, with a curved riser and nosing.

### Common Rafters

The rafters which slope from the top of a wall to the ridge, and support the roofing of a building. (See illustration of king post truss.)

**Compass Roof**

*See span roof.*

**Compo**

The abbreviated term for "composition," which is a plastic material that may be moulded or carved for the enrichment of ceilings, mouldings, or the decoration of panels. The term is also applied to a cement/lime mortar.

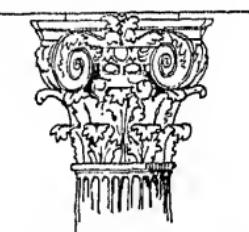
**Composed Order**

This is not an alternative term for Composite order: in the words of Isaac Ware, "it comprehends any composition made at the pleasure of the architect, whose ornaments are extraordinary and unusual, but have somewhat of beauty." It may well have been derived from Compounded order, *q.v.*

**Composite Order**

A Roman order of architecture, which combines the characteristics of the Ionic and Corinthian orders.

Terms occasionally used in the 18th century were Heroic order and Italian order. *See also* Compounded order. (*See* illustration.)



**Compounded Order**

A term used by Sir Henry Wotton for the Composite order, but now obsolete.

**Concrete**

A substance made of cement, sand, gravel, crushed stone, tile or brick, mixed with water.

**COMPOSITE ORDER**

**Conduit**

A pipe or enclosed channel which carries water, electric wiring, etc.

**Congé**

A cavetto moulding which joins the base or capital of a column to the shaft. According to Isaac Ware, this term was also applied to an ovolo moulding.

**Connector, Timber Connector**

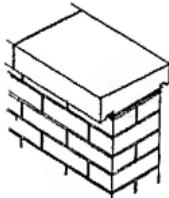
A patent steel device for strengthening bolted timber joists. It is compressed between the timber members held together by the bolt.

**Consoles**

*See* modillions.

**Conurbation**

A word coined in 1912 by Sir Patrick Geddes to describe an urban area occupied by buildings, parks and playing-fields, which are not separated from each other by any rural area.



COPING

**Coping**

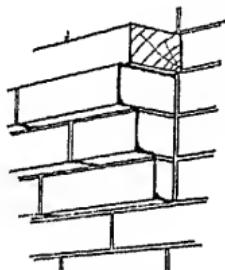
The topmost course of masonry on a wall, which may overlap the surface to give protection from weather to the courses beneath. (*See* illustration.)

**Cops**

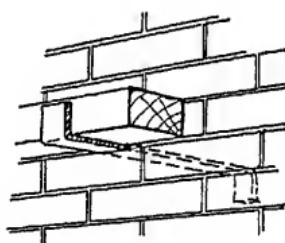
*See* merlon.

**Corbel**

A block of masonry or material such as brick or wood, which projects from a wall and supports a beam or other feature. Corbels may be carved or moulded. (*See* illustrations.)



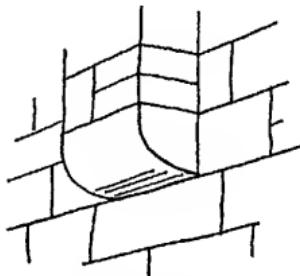
BRICKWORK  
CORBELLED  
TO CARRY  
WALL PLATE



WROUGHT IRON  
CORBEL PIN TO  
CARRY WALL  
PLATE



CARVED CORBEL  
TO DRIPSTONE



STONE CORBEL

**Corbel Table**

A series of blocks or corbels, usually separated by small arches, which supports a parapet or cornice at eaves level, either inside or outside a building.

**Corbie or Crowstep Gable**

A gable which has its upper surface stepped.

**Corinthian Order**

An order of Greek architecture, which was later adapted with modifications by the Romans. *See also Spanish order.* (See illustration of orders.)

**Cork Tiles**

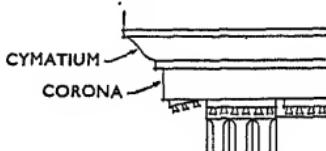
Flooring tiles, made from cork pressed and baked so that a dense homogeneous block is formed from which the tiles are cut.

**Corner Posts**

*See principal posts.*

**Cornice**

The upper, projecting portion of an entablature. The term also describes the projecting course of masonry at the top of a building, and the moulding that covers the angle formed by a ceiling and a wall. (*See illustration.*)



**Corona**

The flat vertical surface of a cornice, having a deep soffit often recessed slightly to form a drip. (*See illustration of cornice.*)

**Corsa**

*See* platband.

**Counter Battens**

Battens laid under and at right angles to the slating or tiling battens.

**Counter Floor**

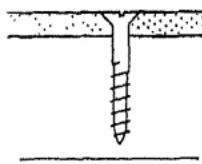
A secondary floor, under the main floor, consisting of battens laid on the floor joists.

**Counter Lathing**

Laths laid on top of and at right angles to, another series.

**Countersunk**

The term applied when a depression is made in a material to take the head of a screw or nail used in fixing, so that the head does not project above the surface of the material. (*See* illustration.)

**Countesses**

Slates of size 20 in. by 10 in.

**COUNTERSUNK****Couple Close Roof or Close Couple Roof**

A couple roof in which the feet of the rafters are fixed to the ceiling joists, thus forming ties.

**Couple Roof**

A roof in which the feet of the rafters are fixed to the wallplates and the heads against the ridge piece, no ties being used.

**Coupled Columns**

Columns in pairs, used on chimney pieces and occasionally in ornamental cabinet work.

**Course**

A horizontal row of bricks, tiles, stone, building blocks, etc.

**Coursed Rubble**

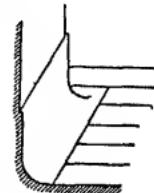
Courses consisting of large, squared stones, those in each course being the same size, but the courses themselves varying in size.

**Cove**

A large concave moulding. (*See* illustration.)

**Cover Fillet or Cover Strip**

A thin strip of flat or moulded bead used to cover a joint in panelling, etc.



COVED  
SKIRTING

**Cover Flashing**

A sheet of lead or other material which covers a flashing and is turned down over it and tucked into the wall so that damp will not enter between wall and flashing; also called an apron or apron piece.

**Cover Mould**

A large form of cover fillet.

**Cover Strip**

*See* cover fillet.

**Cowl**

A form of hood fixed over a chimney or ventilator.

**Cradle Roof**

*See wagon roof.*

**Cramp**

A thin piece of metal, bent at right angles at each end, or slate used to bind together blocks of masonry or timber.

**Creep or Creeping**

A term used in slating and tiling to describe the fan-like spreading of water into the vertical joints between adjacent slates or tiles.

**Crenel or Crenelle**

An embrasure or indentation in a battlement.

**Cresting**

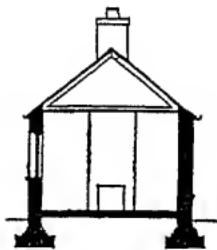
A continuous line of ornament, sometimes perforated, crowning a hall or roof.

**Crochet or Crocket**

A small, carved and decorated projection used to ornament the angles of roofs or spires. It often has the appearance of a hook. (*See illustration.*)



CROCKETS



CROSS SECTION

**Crochet Capital**

As its name implies, a capital decorated below the abacus by a series of continuous crockets.

**Cross Section**

An elevational view of an imaginary cut through a building or object. (*See illustration.*)

**Cross Vault**

A roof formed by two vaults intersecting at right angles.

**Crowstep Gable**

*See corbie.*

**Crown**

The highest point of an arch. (*See* illustration of arch.)

**Crown Glass**

The name given to early window glass, which was manufactured by a blowing and spinning process, the glass finally becoming a flat, circular disc, with a bullion in the centre.

**Crucks**

Timber beams, rising from ground level, sloping towards each other and meeting at the top to form a roof ridge, and constituting the framework of roofs and walls in Anglo-Saxon and medieval buildings.

**Crypt**

A chamber beneath the ground floor level of a church.

**Culvert**

An arched passage, through which a stream or pipe is carried beneath a road or building.

**Cup**

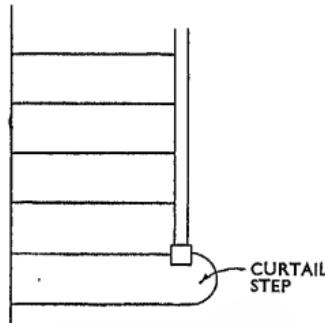
A metal sheath for the head of a screw, and used in countersunk work.

**Cupola**

A small dome. (*See* illustration.)



CUPOLA



PLAN OF STAIRS  
SHOWING CURTAIL STEP

**Curb**

*See* kerb.

**Curtail Step**

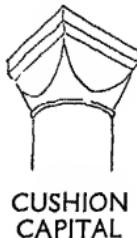
The lowest step of a flight of stairs, with the outer end carried round. (*See* illustration.)

**Curtain Wall**

A low wall beyond the main defences of a castle, which was designed to break the first assault of an attack; also a low wall carrying no roof and used merely as a screen.

**Cushion Capital or Block Capital**

A Byzantine, Romanesque or Norman capital, in the form of a cube, the sides being rounded towards the shaft, to give the appearance of an inverted bowl, and the upper part being square. Another form has mouldings cut on the rounded surfaces. (*See illustration.*)



CUSHION CAPITAL

**Cusps**

The points separating the foils in Gothic tracery. (*See illustration.*)



CUSP

**Cutters**

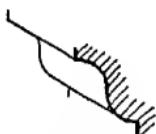
*See rubbers.*

**Cylinder**

A closed cylindrical metal container for hot water.

**Cyma Recta**

A moulding formed by a double curve, the upper part being concave and the lower convex. Sometimes spelt cima or gula. (*See illustration.*)

CYMA RECTA  
OR OGEECYMA REVERSA  
OR REVERSE OGEE**Cyma Reversa**

A moulding formed by a double curve, the upper part of the curve being convex and the lower concave. (*See illustration.*)

**Cymatium**

The highest member of a cornice. (*See illustration of cornice.*)

D

**Dado or Die**

The plinth on which a row of columns stands; also the lower part of wall panelling. (*See* illustration of Roman orders.)

**Dado Rail**

The moulding which forms the upper part of a dado in a room; sometimes called a chair rail.

**Dagger**

A *motif* employed in Decorated tracery, with a lancet-shaped outline and cusps and foils inside.

**Dais**

A part of a room raised above the general floor level. This term was applied to the platform at one end of a medieval hall, where the head of the household dined.

**Damp Proof Course, Damp-course or D.P.C.**

A course of some material impervious to moisture, generally laid just above ground level to check the rise of dampness in a wall; also fixed in parapets, chimneys and at many other points in a building, to prevent the penetration of damp.

**Danced Stairs**

*See* dancing steps.

**Dancette**

*See* chevron.

**Dancing Steps, Danced Stairs or Balanced Winders**

Staircase steps used on a turn, but not tapered in the usual way. In danced stairs the tapered end of the tread is widened, so that a foothold becomes easier.

**Datum Line**

A given horizontal base-line from which vertical dimensions are taken.

**Dead Lock**

A lock which has no latch, and is operated by a key alone.

**Deadening**

*See* pugging.

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

### **Death Watch Beetle (*Xestobium Rufovillosum*)**

A destructive insect that attacks structural timber in old buildings. The tapping noise it makes is a mating cry, and has been responsible for the creature's macabre name.

### **Decastyle**

The term applied to a portico which has ten columns.

### **Decking**

The material used for covering a flat roof if it is laid in standardized units or strips.

### **Decorated Style**

The second phase of English Gothic architecture, following Early English and preceding Perpendicular, lasting from about 1300 to 1400.

### **Demi Column**

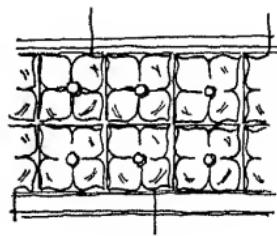
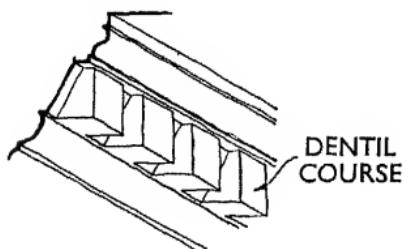
A column set into a wall, only half its depth being visible.

### **Dentil**

A small square block used in series for ornamentation in Ionic and Corinthian cornices.

### **Dentil Course**

A series of dentils. (See illustration.)



### **Diagonal Ribs**

In vaulting, those ribs which mark the intersection of two vaults.

### **Diaper**

A form of ornamentation, consisting of small squares or lozenges applied as an all-over pattern on a surface. (See illustration.)

### **Diastyle**

An arrangement of columns in which the space between each is three times the diameter of one column.

**Diatomaceous Earth**

Earth containing deposits of silica, and used for the manufacture of hollow blocks and bricks, for which it is particularly suitable owing to the insulation properties it possesses.

**Die**

*See dado.*

**Diffusing Glass**

A translucent glass made in certain patterns specially designed to diffuse light.

**Dipteral**

The term applied to a temple having a double row of columns on each side.

**Distemper**

A composition used for painting walls, and consisting of whiting, size and colouring matter.

**Distyle**

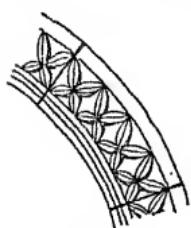
The term applied to a portico with two columns only at one or both ends.

**Dog**

An iron spike, either flat or rounded, and bent at each end, used in shoring and temporary construction, and sometimes fixed into brickwork to form steps up a wall on to a flat roof or down into a manhole.

**Dog-legged Staircase**

A staircase in which the outer string of the upper flight lies vertically above that of the lower flight. When this type of staircase was first introduced, during the 17th century, it was known as a pair of stairs.



DOG-TOOTH  
ORNAMENT

**Dog-tooth**

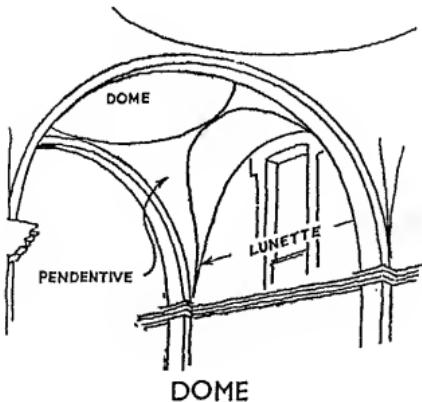
An Early English form of ornamentation having the appearance of a row of teeth. (*See illustration.*)

**Dome**

A curved roof, circular in plan. (*See illustration on page 41.*)

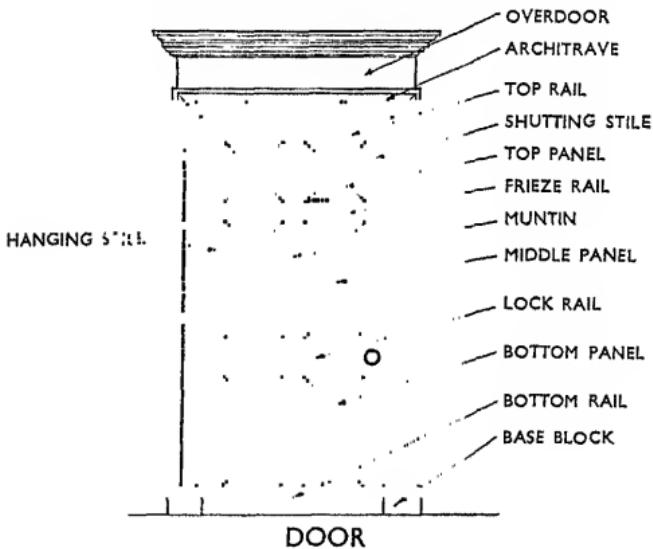
**Donjon**

*See keep.*



### Door

The means of closing a doorway, to be opened or shut at will. Doors are made in many ways, of wood, metal or other materials, and may be hinged, sliding or pivoted. Roman doors were sometimes of marble and worked by pivot and socket. (*See illustration.*)



### Door Frame

A solid frame in which a door is hung.

### Door Furniture

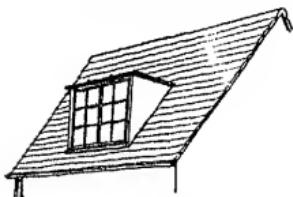
Door knobs and handles, not including locks or latches.

**Door Lining**

The wooden lining of a doorway, a door sometimes being hung to this when a door frame is not used; sometimes known as a jamb lining.

**Doric Order**

The earliest order of Greek architecture, later adapted by the Romans. (*See* illustrations of orders.)



DORMER WINDOW

**Dormer**

A window that projects from a sloping roof. (*See* illustration.)

**Dosseret**

A block above a capital, in Byzantine architecture, giving extra support to the arch voussoirs.

**Double Elephant**

The name given to drawing paper of a standard size of 42 in. by 28 in.

**Double Floor**

A timber floor with one or more large joists or binders wholly or partially supporting the common joists.

**Double Hung**

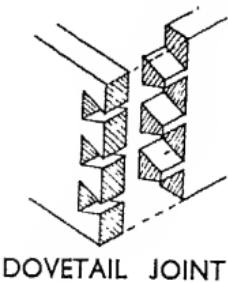
The term used for a window which has sashes hung with weights and lines.

**Double Roof or Purlin Roof**

Similar to a single roof, with the addition of purlins to support the rafters or slab intermediately. A double flat roof is similar to a double floor.

**Doubles**

Slates of size 13 in. by 7 in. or 13 in. by 8 in.



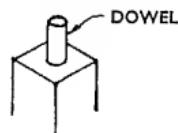
DOVETAIL JOINT

**Dovetailing**

A method of jointing, in which a fan-shaped projection at the end of one member fits a corresponding cut-out section at the end of another member. (*See* illustration.)

**Dowel**

A peg or pin. (*See* illustration.)



**Dragging Tie or Dragon Tie**

A short tie fixed across the angle formed by the wallplates at a hip.

**Dragon Beam or Dragon Piece**

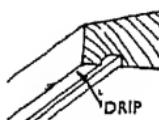
A short wooden member which holds the foot of a hip rafter, and is secured over the angle formed by the wallplates, being supported by a dragon tie.

**Dressings**

Stones such as quoins, keystones, etc., used as accents in a brick building.

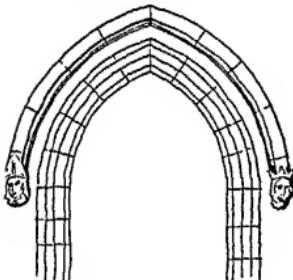
**Drip**

The portion on the front of a throating on any projection or moulding which is formed to prevent rain falling on or running down the face of a building. *See also larmier.* (*See illustration.*)



**Dripstone**

A projecting moulding or canopy over door or window arches, its purpose being to throw off rain from the walls of the building; also called a hood mould or a label. (*See illustration.*)



**Drop**

The projecting lower end of a newel.

**Drop Ornament**

Carved ornamentation in the form of a pendant.

**Drum**

**DRIPSTONE** A temporary cylindrical structure round which a veneer is bent in the preliminary stages of its application. Also, a hollow column of masonry with a metal core. The term is sometimes used for the bell of a capital, and for the vertical supporting member of a dome.

**Dry Rot**

Decay in timber, caused by fungi. The term dry rot is commonly used to cover several kinds, but is properly applicable only to that caused by *Merulius lacrymans*, the dry rot fungus. This fungus reduces wood to a dry and crumbling condition in the last stages of its attack: also its strands can carry moisture from the damp place where it starts to dryer parts of the building. *Poria vaillantii*, the pore fungus, causes similar decay but is less virulent. The other main kinds of fungi that affect timber in buildings are *Coniophora cerebella*,

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

the cellar fungus, and *Paxillus panuoides*, which cause damage only in wet wood. (*See also* wet rot.)

### Duchesses

Slates of size 24 in. by 12 in.

### Duct

A casing through which air, liquid, steam, gas, or service pipes or wiring may be conveyed. A pipe duct is a casing or chase formed to house service pipes.

### Dungeon

*See* keep.

## E

### Early English Style

The Gothic architecture that followed the Norman and preceded the Decorated period, lasting approximately from the late 12th century to the early 14th.

### Early Georgian Style

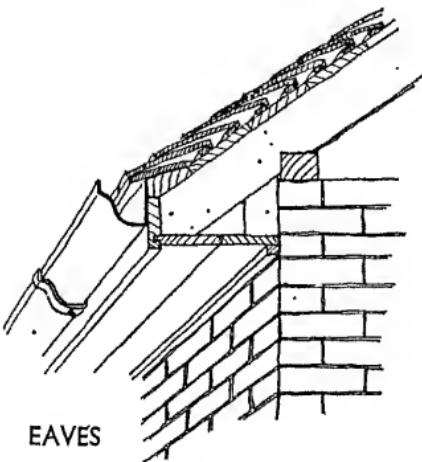
The architecture of the early 18th century, from about 1715 to 1735-40.

### Easing

The graceful curve connecting the top part of a string with a skirting or with a string at a different slope. It may be a shaping of the string or an extension joined to it.

### Eaves

The lowest part of a roof, overhanging the top of the wall. (*See* illustration.)

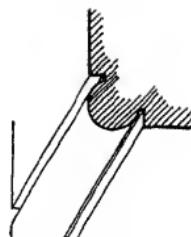


**Eaves Board**

*See fascia board.*

**Eaves Course**

The lowest course of tiles or slates laid on a roof.



**Echinus**

The curved projecting moulding supporting the abacus in a Greek Doric capital. (*See illustration of orders.*)

**Edge Roll**

A Gothic moulding which resembles a staff bead. (*See illustration.*)



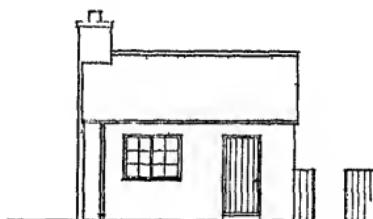
EGG AND DART

**Egg and Dart or Egg and Tongue**

An enrichment applied to ovolو mouldings; the pattern is based on a design of eggs and arrow-heads arranged alternately. (*See illustration.*)

**Elevation**

The external faces of a building, e.g. front, side and back elevations; also a drawing made in perspective or a vertical plane.



**Elizabethan Style**

The architecture of the first part of the Early English Renaissance period, lasting approximately throughout the reign of Elizabeth I.

**Empresses**

Slates of size 26 in. by 16 in.

**Encarpa**

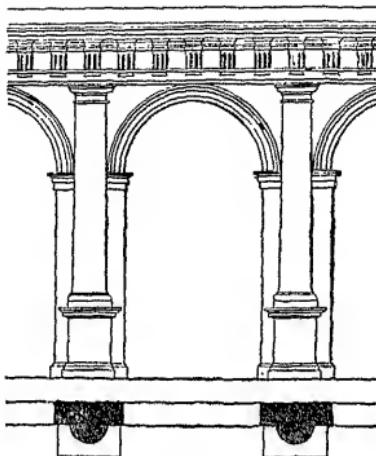
A decorative festoon usually appearing on a frieze, and composed of flowers or fruit.

**Encaustic Tiles**

Earthenware tiles used for ornamental purposes. A patterned surface is produced by mixed coloured clays, burnt and glazed.

**Engaged Columns**

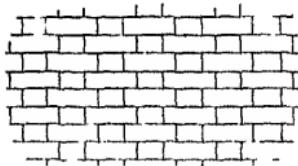
Columns which are joined to and partially concealed by, a wall.  
(See illustration.)



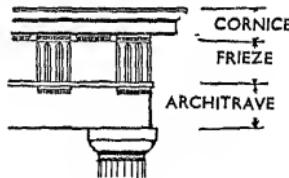
ENGAGED COLUMNS

**English Bond**

Bricks laid in alternate courses of headers and stretchers. (See illustration.)



ENGLISH BOND



ENTABLATURE

**Enrichment**

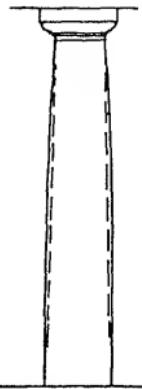
The carved or inlaid ornament which decorates mouldings.

**Entablature**

The upper part of an order, consisting of architrave, frieze and cornice. (See illustration.)

**Entasis**

The slightly convex curve to the side of a column, formed in order to counteract the optical illusion of the outline being concave, which would result if the sides were straight. (*See illustration.*)



**Entresol**

*See mezzanine.*

**Epitaph**

A monument on a wall, with an inscription recording the virtues of a deceased person.



ESCUCHÉON

**Escutcheon**

A pivoted keyhole cover. (*EXAGGERATED*) (*See illustration.*)

**Espagnolette**

A type of bolt by which both the top and bottom of a sash are secured by turning one handle.

**Eustyle**

An arrangement of columns in which the space between each is two and a quarter times its diameter.

**Exedra**

A semicircular or rectangular recess for seating; the term is sometimes applied to an apse or niche in a church.

**Extension Hinge**

*See cleaning hinge.*

**Extrados**

The upper or outer part of the curve of an arch. (*See illustration of arch.*)

**Eye**

A small round window in the centre of a pediment.

F

**Façade**

The front or face of a building.

**Facing**

A finishing material applied to the façade of a building.

**Faience**

Glazed pottery and porcelain sometimes used on the exterior of buildings in the form of panels, decorative courses, or as a facing.

**Fairfaced Brickwork**

Brickwork not intended to be plastered and therefore neatly finished and pointed.

**False Ceiling**

A ceiling formed below the normal ceiling level, to provide space for service ducts, wiring and so forth, or to improve the proportions of a room or space.

**Fan Vaulting**

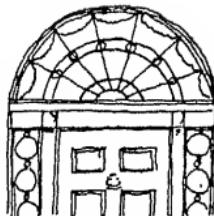
A system of vaulting in which the ribs suggest the framework of a fan, as they all spread outwards in the same curve; sometimes called palm vaulting. (See illustration.)



FAN VAULTING

**Fanlight**

A window above the head of a door. In Georgian buildings, the panes were divided by radiating glazing bars, giving a fan-like appearance. This term is also applied to the topmost part of a window that is hinged to open. (*See illustration.*)



FANLIGHT

**Fascia or Facia**

A flat band which projects slightly from an architrave. Also, the flat surface running above a shop window, on which the name of the shop may be displayed.

**Fascia Board**

A horizontal board fixed at eaves level, the roof gutter being attached to the vertical face; also called an eaves board or gutter board.

**Feather Edged Boarding**

Boarding in which the thickness is tapered along one edge, often used in weatherboarding, and sometimes instead of battens in roof tiling.

**Feathering**

*See* foliation.

**Fenestration**

The arrangement and relative proportions of the windows in a façade.

**Feretory**

This word may be applied to a bier, coffin, tomb or shrine, but generally refers to a shrine, fixed or portable, containing relics, and placed behind the high altar in a church.

**Ferro-concrete or Reinforced Concrete**

Concrete, reinforced by steel bars or mesh set in it.

**Festoon**

A form of ornamentation in the shape of a suspended wreath, used on a frieze or panel; also called a swag. (*See illustration.*)



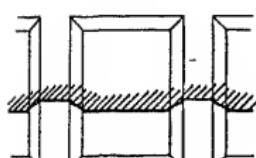
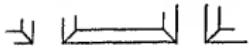
FESTOON OR SWAG

**Fibre Board**

Low-density building board, used as an internal finish, and for many purposes where insulation and sound absorption are required.

**Fibrous Plaster**

A composition of Plaster of Paris on canvas, sometimes termed stick-and-rag work, produced in slabs.



**FIELDED PANELS**

**Fielded Panel**

A panel in which the central space is raised so that it projects slightly beyond the surface of the stiles and rails of the framework. (*See illustration.*)

**Figured Rolled Glass**

A rolled glass, one surface of which is patterned, vision through the glass being obscured in proportion to the configuration of the pattern. The glass may be tinted.

**Fillet**

A narrow flat band separating two mouldings; also the uppermost member of a cornice; sometimes called a listel. (*See illustration.*) Also a weld in steelwork.



**Fillister**

An adjustable plane used in woodworking.

**Fingerplate**

An oval or rectangular plate fixed above and below a door handle to protect the door surface from finger marks.

**FILLET  
OR BAND**



**Finial**

The carved or moulded ornament which crowns a pinnacle, gable, spire, etc. (*See illustration.*)

**Finishing Coat**

A final coat of paint, to complete the protection given by the priming and undercoats and to provide a decorative finish.

**Fireclay**

A heat-resistant clay, used for the manufacture of such items as fire backs, firebricks and chimney pots, and for setting stoves, ovens or range backs.

**Firrings or Furring Bearers**

Timbers on top of flat roof joists, to give a fall to the roof for rain water drainage.

**Fixed Light**

A window that is not made to open.

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

### **Fixing Block**

A block of some material, which will hold nails and screws, built into a wall, as a fixing for joinery.

### **Flagstone**

A large flat paving stone.

### **Flashing**

A material (often lead or zinc) used as a protective covering to joints between the roof finish and chimneys, dormers, gable walls, etc.

### **Flaunching**

The application of cement mortar to the top of a chimney stack to form weathering.

### **Flat Roof**

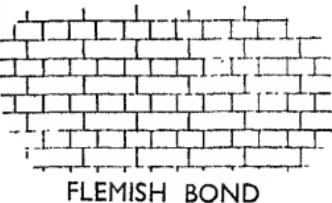
A roof with a pitch so slight that only lead, asphalt or a similar material may be used as a covering.

### **Flèche**

A slender wooden spire, also known as a spirelet, rising from a roof.

### **Flemish Bond**

Headers and stretchers laid alternately in the same course; in Double Flemish this is done for facing and backing, and in Single Flemish for the facing only. (See illustration.)



### **Fleuron**

A decorative flower or leaf pattern, sometimes alleged to be based on the Greek honeysuckle motif.

### **Fliers**

In staircase construction, steps which are rectangular in plan.

### **Flight**

A series of stairs, unbroken by a landing.

### **Flitched Beam**

A beam consisting of two or more rectangular members bolted together. Where there are more than two, the inner member is often of metal.

**Float**

As a noun, the word describes a plasterer's wooden trowel, consisting of a short board with a handle fixed on one flat side. Used as a verb, to apply the intermediate coat, between rendering and setting, in three-coat plaster work. This is known as the floating coat and the work as floated work.

**Floated Work**

*See float.*

**Floor**

The flat horizontal plane on which one stands, in a building. The structure of a floor, covered by the finish or flooring. A storey.

**Floreated**

A term applied to tracery and embellishment in which floral and leaf ornament is used in flowing lines.

**Florentine Mosaic Work**

*See pietra dura.*

**Flue**

The enclosed portion of a chimney stack, which carries off smoke.

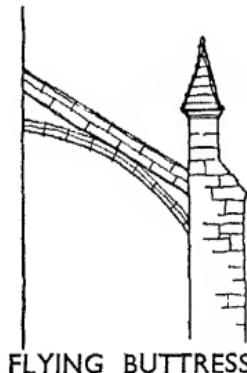
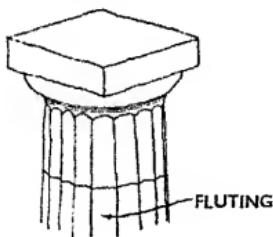
A flue may also be formed of a pipe of metal, asbestos, etc.

**Flush Bead**

A moulding in which the astragal or bead is sunk, so that it lies flush with the adjacent surfaces. (See FLUSH BEAD illustration.)

**Fluting**

Shallow, rounded grooves on any surface. (See illustration.)

**Flying Buttress**

A buttress, joined to a main wall by a half arch at the point where an internal thrust must be taken. (See illustration.)

**Flying Shelf**

A shelf that projects above a fireplace opening, but is unsupported by and unconnected with the framework that surrounds the fireplace opening.

**Foils**

The small arcs, which, separated by cusps, form Gothic tracery, e.g. cinquefoil, quatrefoil, trefoil.

**Foliation**

Tracery formed by an arrangement of cusps and foils; sometimes called feathering.

**Foot Block**

*See* plinth block.

**Footings**

The lowest layers of material used in the foundations of a building.

**Footpace**

*See* halpace.

**Formeret**

A half rib against a wall in vaulting.

**Formwork**

Shuttering, in concrete work.

**Foundations**

The stone, concrete or brick base on which the walls of a building rest.

**Framed Floor**

*See* triple floor.

**Framed Roof**

*See* triple roof.

**Franked Joint**

One variety of joint used between timber glazing bars. One bar is continuous and is mortised to receive halved and haunched tenons worked on the other bars.

**Frater, Frater-house or Fratery**

A refectory in a monastery.

**French Window**

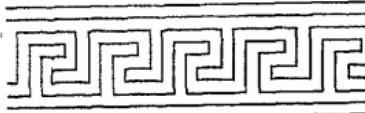
A window reaching to ground level, and hung to open like a pair of doors.

**Fresco**

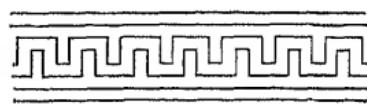
Painted decoration on a wall.

**Fret**

Geometrical ornament used on a flat surface, generally as a band, formed by horizontal and vertical straight lines. (*See* illustration.)



RUNNING FRET



SYMMETRICAL FRET

**Frieze**

The plain or sculptured band on an entablature, between the architrave and the cornice. Also, the upper part of a wall in a room, above the line of panelling and below the cornice. (*See* illustration of entablature.)

**Frieze Rail**

The horizontal member between the top and middle panels of a door. (*See* illustration of door.)

**Frog**

The rectangular recess in the centre of a brick which forms a key for mortar.

**Front Hearth**

That portion of the hearth which projects beyond the fireplace into a room; formerly known as a "foot-pace."

**Frontispiece**

A term describing the decoration on the front of a church, or a single decorative feature above a gateway.

**Fronton or Frontoon**

An 18th-century term for a pediment.

**Fust**

An archaic term for the shaft of a column.

**G****Gable**

The triangle of wall surface formed by the meeting of two sloping roof lines, at the end of a ridged roof. (*See* illustration.)



GABLE

**Gablet**

A small gable, usually appearing as a kind of pediment crowning a pilaster on a building. (*See* illustration.)

**Gadroon**

A decorative edge having the appearance of inverted fluting, formed by a series of convex curves.

**Galilee**

A chapel or porch at the west end of the nave or entrance to a church.

**Gallery**

A wide corridor, generally an upper storey, walled on one side only; also an upper storey for seats in a church or public building.

**Galletting**

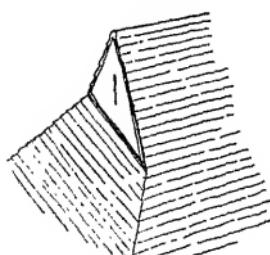
The term applied when small fragments of stone, etc., are pressed into the mortar of large joints.

**Galvanized Iron**

Iron to which a zinc coating has been applied, in order to resist rusting.

**Gambrel Roof**

A hipped roof, terminating in a small gable at the ridge. (*See* illustration.)

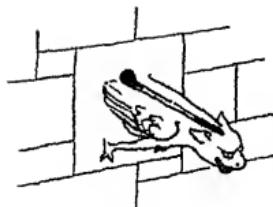


GAMBREL ROOF

**Garderobe**

A privy in a medieval castle, built in the thickness of a tower wall, and draining into the castle moat or into a special garderobe pit.

**Gargoyle**



**GARGOYLE**

**Gauged Arch**

An arch in which the masonry or brick-work is cut to definite sizes and shapes.

**Gazebo**

An ornamental summerhouse, from which a view may be obtained, often incorporated in a garden wall.

**Georgian Style**

The architecture of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

**Gesso**

A material made from whiting, linseed oil and glue, thickly applied as a decorative coating to other materials; when set, it may be carved, and gilded or painted.

**Girder**

A member which spans an opening and carries a load, and which is subjected to a transverse stress.

**Glass Brick or Block**

Hollow translucent units made in two halves, sealed together to form a glass block.

**Glazing Bars**

The metal or wooden members in a window unit, which form the framework of individual panes. (*See illustration of window.*)

**Glazing Bead**

A narrow wood or metal section fixed inside or outside a window frame, to hold the glass.

**Glyph**

A shallow, vertical groove carved on a flat or curved surface.

**Going or Run**

In staircase construction, the horizontal distance between one riser face and the next. The going of a flight is the horizontal distance between the faces of the top and bottom risers.

**Gola**

*See gula.*

**Gorge**

An alternative term for cavetto.

**Gothic Architecture**

The architecture that arose from the use of the pointed arch and the structural discoveries related to it, and which, in church architecture, resulted in the use of a framework of thin stone members to hold glass; this period lasted approximately from 1200 to 1500.

**Gothic Revival**

The revival of interest in the Gothic style, which began early in the 19th century, and exercised a great influence on architectural taste during the Victorian period.

**Granolithic**

A fine concrete floor finish having a special hard-wearing aggregate such as granite; also used for skirtings, stairs, etc.

**Greek Architecture**

The trabeated architecture of Classical Greece, based on the principles and proportions of the original Classical orders of architecture: Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian, which were evolved in Greece. (*See illustration of Greek orders.*)

**Greek Revival**

The revival of taste in Greek architecture which took place in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

**Groin**

The curved arris which is formed by the meeting of two vaulted surfaces.

**Groin Rib**

A rib which follows the line of a groin in a vaulted surface. (*See illustration of ribbed vaulting on p. 101.*)

**Groined Vaulting**

Vaulting formed by the intersection of groins either with or without ribs.

**Grooved and Tongued Joint**

*See tongued and grooved joint.*

**Grotesque**

A term for a type of ornamentation resembling Arabesque, of light, fanciful character, and often used to decorate the walls or in

subterranean parts of ancient classical buildings. Another use of the word is to describe ornamental forms such as stalactites, which decorated 17th- and 18th-century grottoes. It is sometimes used to describe carved masks of mythical creatures.

**Ground Floor Plan or Ground Plan**

A horizontal section showing the arrangement of the ground floor accommodation of a building, and generally taken at window height.

**Grounds**

Rough wood framing, fixed in or to a wall, to which linings, paneling, etc., are fixed.

**Grout**

A mortar, liquid enough to be poured, used as a filler, and sometimes as a fixing agent.

**Gudgeon**

*See* band and gudgeon.

**Guilloche**

An interlaced network pattern used as an enrichment on a moulding.

**Gula or Gola**

An Italian form of the word cyma.

**Gully or Gulley**

A gully trap, or trapped gully, in drainage. A receptacle with a water seal, between a waste pipe and a drain. Usually the waste pipe discharges in the open air, over a grating in the top of the gully. A yard gully, with a grating, receives the surface water from a yard or area. A rainwater gully receives rainwater. Sealed gullies, with no grating, are used for special purposes.

**Guttae**

Small, drop-like ornaments under the regula and mutules of a Doric entablature. (*See* illustration of orders.)

**Gutter**

A small trough fixed under the eaves of a roof or on the inside of a parapet wall, to carry off rainwater.

**Gutter Board**

*See* fascia board.

**Gutter Bracket**

A metal support shaped to hold a gutter, and which can be fixed to the eaves board or the end of the rafters, or built into the wall.

**Gypsum**

Hydrous calcium sulphate, from which Plaster of Paris is made, and which is a basic material in the manufacture of many other kinds of plaster used in building.

**H**

**Hagioscope**

A small oblique window in a medieval church, through which the altar could be seen. Sometimes called a squint.

**Half Bat**

The term applied to a half brick.

**Half Landing**

A rectangular landing which makes a half-turn between two flights of stairs, and is twice the width of one flight.

**Halpace or Halospace**

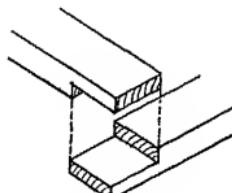
Part of the floor in an old house, which is raised slightly in front of a bay window or fireplace. When applied to a dais, a landing on a staircase, or an altar, it is called a footpace.

**Half-Timbered Building**

A timber-framed building, the structural members being of wood, and the spaces between the framework filled in with brick or other material.

**Halved Joint**

A joint formed by two overlapping members, the overlapping parts being halved to make a flat joint. (*See* illustration.)



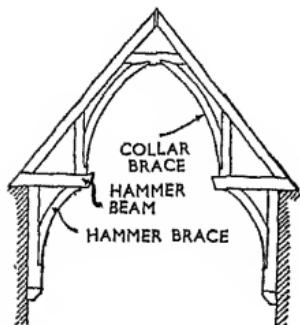
HALVED JOINT

**Hammer Brace**

The curved vertical member which supports a hammerbeam. (*See* illustration of hammerbeam roof.)

**Hammerbeam Roof**

A Gothic form of roof in which the rafters are supported by a horizontal member called a hammer-beam, which projects from the wall, but is not joined to the corresponding hammerbeam on the opposite wall. (See illustration.)

**HAMMERBEAM ROOF****Hand (of Doors)**

The term which describes the swing of a door; a door is said to be right-handed when, *on opening it away from one*, the handle is on the right-hand side; if the handle is on the left-hand side, the door is left-handed.

**Handrail**

In staircase construction, the top rail which follows the inclination of the stairs, and into which are fitted the heads of the banisters.

**Handrail Screw Bolt**

A type of bolt, with a square nut on one end and a round slotted nut and washer on the other, used to make the joints between portions of handrails, and butt joints in curved frames or sashes.

**Hanger**

In timber roof construction, a member fixed to a rafter or purlin and to a runner, to help to support the ceiling joists. A timber or metal member hanging from a floor, to carry a suspended ceiling.

**Hanging Stile**

The vertical member of a door, shutter, etc., on the side hinged to the frame. (See illustration of door.)

**Hardboard**

High-density building board used for the same purposes as plywood.

**Hardcore**

Broken brick or stone, coarse gravel, broken concrete and so on, used to form a thoroughly consolidated and well-drained bed under a solid concrete floor, surface concrete, hearth or paving, or as a filling to a void.

**Hardwood**

Officially defined in British Standards Institution leaflet B.S.

881: 1946, as follows: "A conventional term used to denote the timber of broadleaved trees belonging to the botanical group *Angiosperms*."

**Harelip Arch**

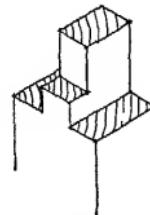
A term sometimes applied to a keel arch.

**Harl or Harling**

The Scottish term for roughcasting.

**Haunch**

In arch construction the lower part of an arch, that takes the thrust. (See illustration of arch.) In joinery, the term describes a small projection at the root of a tenon, which has been reduced in width. *See also* haunching and haunched tenon.



**Haunched Tenon**

A tenon with a haunch. (See illustration.)

**Haunching**

The sinking into which a tenon haunch is fitted.

**Head**

The topmost horizontal member of a door or window frame.

**Header**

A brick laid in a course so that its end forms part of the wall surface. Also, a slate of size 14 in. by 10 in.

**Header Bond**

A bond consisting only of headers.

**Header Course**

A course consisting of headers.

**Helix**

A small spiral member beneath the abacus of a Corinthian capital. (See illustration of Greek orders.)

**Helm Roof**

A pointed roof formed by four inclined faces joined at the top, with a gable at the angle of each face.

**Heroic Order**

*See* Composite order.

**Herringbone Strutting**

Small pieces of wood fixed criss-cross fashion between floor joists, to give extra rigidity.

**Hexastyle**

The term applied to a portico with six columns.

**High Tensile Steel**

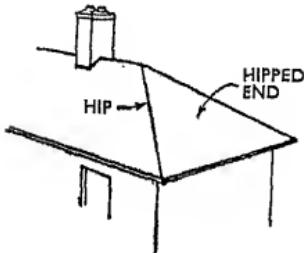
Low carbon (and usually low alloy) steel, with higher tensile strength than mild steel.

**Hip**

The external angle formed by the meeting of two sloping roof surfaces.

**Hip Hook**

An iron hook at the lower edge of a hip, to keep the hip tiles from slipping. Sometimes called a hip iron.



HIPPED ROOF

**Hip Tile**

A saddle-shaped tile for laying over a hip.

**Hipped Roof**

A roof in which the end is formed by a sloping face enclosed by hips. (See illustration.)

**Hit-and-Miss**

A ventilator formed by two identically perforated plates, one fixed and one movable; by sliding the latter the perforations can be made to coincide or not as desired.

**Hod**

A wooden trough with a long handle like a broom handle. It is used for carrying bricks and mortar on the shoulder to the bricklayer at work.

**Hoggin**

Gravel. The meaning varies in different localities. Generally hoggin refers to path or road gravel. In some places it means gravel as dug; in others, the same but with the large gravel screened out. Elsewhere, hoggin is used as a term for rough aggregate.

**Holderbat**

A metal support, fixed in an outside wall and encircling a pipe running down the wall, so that the pipe is firmly secured.

**Hollow Wall**

*See cavity wall.*

**Honeycombed Wall**

A brick wall in which certain headers in each course are omitted, in order to provide free air circulation; known as a sleeper wall when built in this way and carrying the ground floor joists.

**Hood**

*See canopy.*

**Hood Mould**

*See dripstone.*

**Hopper Head**

A funnel-shaped rainwater head.

**Hopper Light**

The upper part of a casement, hinged at the bottom to open inwards.

**Housed Joint**

A joint that is socketed, as opposed to a butt joint.

**Hydrated Lime**

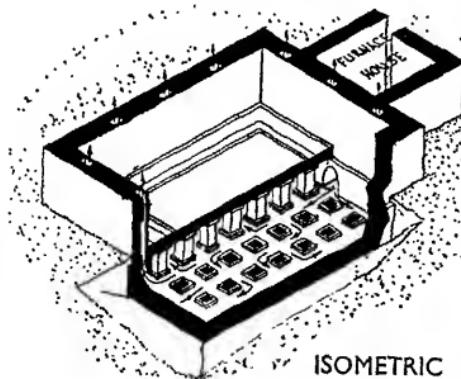
Lime thoroughly slaked by a special process, leaving a perfectly dry powder. It is mixed with sand and water before use in building.

**Hydraulic Cements and Limes**

Cements and limes which possess the property of setting under water.

**Hypocaust**

The chambers or ducts of the Roman system of heating rooms by means of hot air flues. (*See illustration.*)



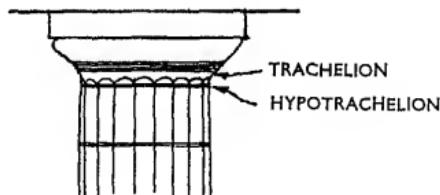
ISOMETRIC DIAGRAM  
OF PILLARED HYPOCAUST

**Hypostyle**

The term describing a hall in which the roof is supported by columns at various points, giving a forest-like appearance to the interior.

**Hypotrachelion**

The groove which encircles a Greek Doric column at the point at which the shaft ends, and which connects the shaft with the necking. (*See* illustration.)



## I

**Imperial**

The name given to drawing paper of a standard size of  $30\frac{1}{2}$  in. by  $22\frac{1}{2}$  in.

**Impost**

The member immediately below the springing line, on which an arch rests. (*See* illustration of arch.)

**In Situ**

The term used to describe work done in its final position in a building. For example, a reinforced concrete lintel for which the shuttering is put up over an opening and the concrete poured there, is a "cast *in situ* lintel," whereas a lintel formed separately and erected when set is a precast lintel.

**Indent**

A depression or sinking formed in a member, often a metal plate or bar so that it can be bolted to another member having a similar sinking, or, in the case of a reinforcing bar, bonded into the concrete.

**Ingle Nook**

A wide, recessed chimney opening, usually flanked by seats.

**Inlay**

A form of decoration in which shallow sinkings are made in solid wood, and then filled in with pieces of different coloured wood or other material, shaped to fit the hollows; sometimes called intarsia.

**Insulating Board**

Building board made of wood wool and cement, with good insulating properties. The thicker boards are used in place of boarding in roof construction and for partitions.

**Insulation**

The use, in a building, of a material or method that will obstruct the passage of sound, light, heat or vibration from one surface to another.

**Intarsia**

*See* inlay.

**Interceptor**

A trap in the form of a water seal, placed between a drain and a sewer, in order to stop the passage of sewer gas into the drain.

**Intercolumniation**

The space between two columns.

**Intermediate Ribs**

In vaulting, the ribs inserted between the transverse and diagonal ribs, to give extra support to the panels; also known as tiercerons.

**Intertie**

A horizontal member fixed between two uprights and lying parallel to and a little lower than the main horizontal tie beam in a partition.

**Intrados**

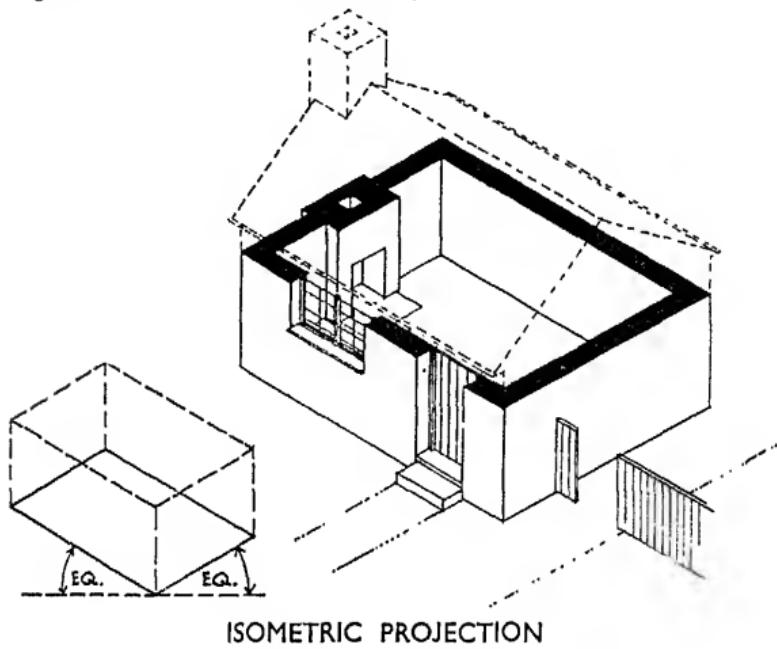
The inner part of the curve of an arch. (*See* illustration of arch.)

**Ionic Order**

One of the Greek orders of architecture, later adapted by the Romans. (*See* illustration of orders.)

**Isometric Projection**

A geometrical drawing showing an object in three dimensions. The plan is set up with lines at an equal angle to the horizontal, and verticals projected from it to scale. This method gives the object a more realistic appearance than axonometric projection, but all diagonals and curves are distorted. (See illustrations.)

**Italian Order**

*See Composite order.*

**J****Jack Rafter**

A short rafter which joins the eaves of a roof to a hip or valley.

**Jacks**

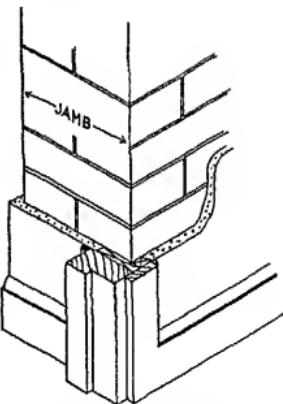
Figures with movable arms with hammers, fixed beside the bell of a public or church clock, which strike the hours or quarters.

**Jacobean Style**

A period of Early English Renaissance architecture, lasting approximately throughout the reign of James I.

**Jamb**

Masonry, brick or woodwork, which forms the vertical surround to a doorway, window or fireplace opening. (*See illustration.*)



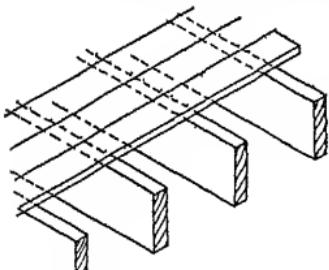
SQUARE JAMB TO  
DOORWAY

**Jib Door**

A concealed door in a wall, flush with the wall surface. Jib doors are often papered over with the same wallpaper used in the room, so that the symmetry of the wall surface may be preserved.

**Joggle**

In masonry or stonework, a joint in which a projection on one member fits a similar sinking on another. The term is also applied to a grouted joint in which each of the adjacent stones in a course is recessed. The overlapping of reinforcing bars in a concrete beam is known as a joggle.



TIMBER FLOOR JOISTS

**Jointless Flooring**

Flooring made of a composition of materials laid in a semi-plastic condition on a solid surface.

**Joist**

One of several parallel beams carrying a floor or ceiling. (*See illustration.*)

**K****Keel Arch**

A curved arch, rising to a point that resembles the keel of a ship reversed; also called an ogee or harelip arch. (*See illustration.*)



KEEL,  
OR OGEE  
ARCH

**Keel Moulding**

*See* ogee moulding.

**Keene's Cement**

A plaster made of gypsum that has been subjected to two burnings, and treated with alum, or borax and cream of tartar.

**Keep**

The stronghold or great tower of a medieval castle. The word donjon, Norman-French in origin, is sometimes used, and from it is derived dungeon, a prison beneath a tower.

**Kentish Rag**

A hard limestone found in Kent. It has good weather-resisting properties, and is used as an external building stone.

**Kerb or Curb**

The stone, concrete or tile edging which separates a pavement or sidewalk from a road surface; also the moulded member that borders the front hearth of a fireplace.

**Key**

The central voussoir of an arch, sometimes ornamented with carving; or the top stone of a dome or vault, also called a keystone: an incised surface on a wall or ceiling to which plaster may adhere; also a general term for any rough surface which helps adhesion. (*See illustration of arch.*)

**Keyplate**

A metal plate surrounding a keyhole.

**Keystone**

*See key.*

**Kicking Plate**

A metal plate fixed to the bottom rail of a door, to protect the door.

**King Closer**

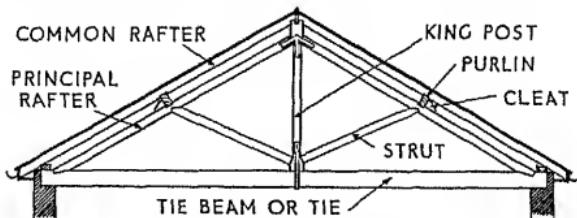
A brick in which one corner is cut away, so that the header at that end is half the width of the brick.

**King Post**

The centre vertical post in a king post truss, which supports the tie-beam, and takes the feet of the purlin struts. (*See illustration of king post truss.*)

**King Post Truss**

A roof truss having a centre king post. (*See* illustration.)



ROOF WITH KING POST TRUSS

**Knee**

A term sometimes used for that part of a dripstone where it returns at the springing line of an arch. Another meaning is for a wood or metal member acting as a corbel under a beam end. It is also applied to a vertical curve in a handrail, and to a straight joint formed in a handrail, where it joins the top of the newel: an alternative name for this is a toggle joint. In cabinet-making, it describes the upper, convex curve of a cabriole leg on a chair, table, or cabinet stand.

**Kneeler**

An intermediate length of the coping to a gable end, which is bonded into the wall.

**Knot, Knotting**

To apply a coat of knotting (shellac dissolved in spirit) to the knots in wood.

## L

**Label**

*See* dripstone.

**Label Stop**

A boss, often ornamented with foliage, terminating a dripstone in Early English work. The dripstone is sometimes stopped by a carved head or small corbel.

**Laced Valley**

A roof valley in which there is no gutter at the angle, the courses at that point sweeping up to a slate-and-a-half or tile-and-a-half, laid on a wide board, slantwise.

**Lacunar or Lequear**

A word occasionally used to describe a ceiling, or more particularly a panelled or coffered ceiling.

**Lacunaria**

*See caissons.*

**Ladies**

Slates of size 16 in. by 8 in.

**Lady Chapel**

A chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, usually at the east end of a church, but sometimes adjoining the choir, or the transept; some churches contain two such chapels. In 1838, John Britton said of this term that it was "of modern application, derived from the Catholic phrase 'Our Lady.' " (*Dictionary of the Architecture and Archaeology of the Middle Ages.*)

**Lagging**

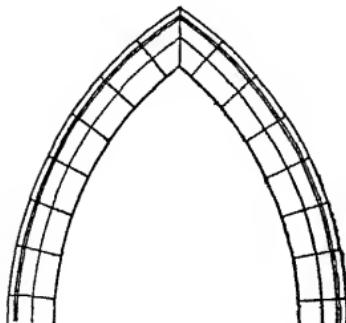
The covering which provides insulation to water pipes, boilers, etc. Also, narrow battens nailed across the shaped ribs of centering.

**Laminated**

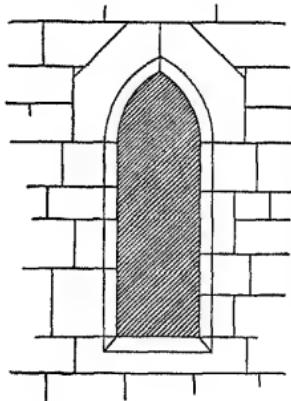
The term applied to a material which is built up of a series of layers of the same or alternating materials.

**Lancet Arch**

A narrow pointed arch, typical of the Early English period of architecture. Sometimes called an acute arch. (*See illustration.*)



LANCET ARCH



LANCET WINDOW

**Lancet Window**

A narrow pointed window, typical of Early English architecture; it often appears in conjoined groups. (*See illustration.*)

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

### **Landing**

A flat platform between two flights of stairs.

### **Lantern**

A small ornamental open or glazed structure crowning a dome or roof, and lighting an interior.

### **Lantern Light**

A skylight with flat, glazed vertical sides, rising from the roof of a building, as distinct from a skylight lying almost flush with the covering of a sloping roof.

### **Lap**

The extent to which a course of tiles or slates overlaps the course next but one below. When a slate is fixed with a single nail at its head, the lap is the extent to which a course overlaps the course next but one below it, but does not include the area between the head of the slate and the nail hole. In single lap tiling the lap is the extent to which one course covers the course below.

### **Larmier**

A term for the drip formed in a cornice.

### **Late Georgian Style**

The architecture of the reign of George IV.

### **Lath**

A thin wooden strip.

### **Lattice**

An openwork screen, formed of one set of parallel members crossing another; sometimes applied to diamond-shaped leaded lights.

### **Lattice Girder**

A girder having a number of braces crossing each other diagonally.

### **Lattice Window**

A window which is given the appearance of a lattice by the arrangement of the glazing bars.

### **Lay Panel or Lying Panel**

A timber panel in which the grain of the wood runs horizontally.

### **Laylight**

A glazed opening in a ceiling, to admit natural or artificial light.

### **Leaded Light**

A window formed by small panes of glass set in lead cames.

**Lean-to Roof**

A roof having one sloping surface only, built against the side of another building. An archaic term is a to-fall.

**Ledge**

The horizontal member which, in the simplest form of door construction, is fixed across the vertical boarding.

**Ledged Door**

A door consisting of vertical boarding (known as battens) held together by ledges.

**Ledged and Braced Door**

A ledged door, with additional braces fixed diagonally between the ledges.

**Ledged, Braced and Framed Door**

A ledged and braced door with a frame which is the same thickness as the ledges and battens together.

**Lequear**

*See lacunar.*

**Lesene**

*See pilaster strip.*

**Lich Gate**

A covered gateway to a churchyard.

**Lierne**

A short rib that links intermediate or ridge ribs in vaulting, but does not rise from the same springing line.

**Lime**

Calcium oxide, obtained by burning limestone.

**Lime Mortar**

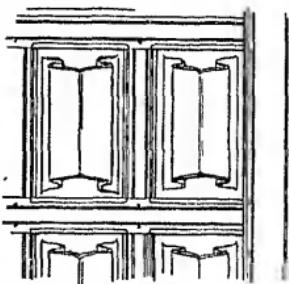
A mortar composed of slaked lime, sand and water, mixed to a plastic consistency.

**Limestone**

Stone which consists largely of carbonate of lime, but of which there are many varieties.

**Linenfold**

A decorative device based on folded linen, used on panelling and furniture in the 15th and 16th centuries. (*See illustration.*)



LINENFOLD PANELLING

**Lintel or Lintel**

A horizontal member supported at each end, and carrying a weight. (*See illustration of window.*)

**Listel**

*See fillet.*

**Lobby**

A small ante-room or passage into which one or more rooms open.

**Lock rail**

The middle horizontal member of a door; also called a middle rail. (*See illustration of door.*)

**Loggia**

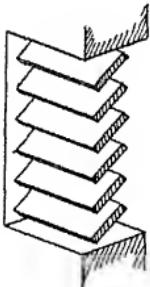
A covered gallery, open on one or more sides.

**Long and Short Work**

A Saxon method of laying the quoins of stone walls, in which flat horizontal stones alternate with tall vertical ones.

**Louvre**

An opening in the roof of a medieval hall, to let out smoke from the fire; also one of a series of inclined horizontal slats fixed in a window or other opening, to admit the passage of air while excluding rain and sun. (*See illustration.*)



**Low Relief**

Ornament or sculpture, lightly carved or moulded on a surface.

**Lug**

A small projection on any member to assist in fixing, e.g. on a tile where it is also called a nib.

**Lunette**

A semicircular window. (*See illustration of dome.*)

**Lying Panel**

*See lay panel.*

## M

**Machicolation**

In a medieval castle, a projecting parapet supported by corbels and having openings between the corbels through which defenders could drop missiles upon assailants.

**Majolica**

Glazed and ornamented Italian earthenware.

**Manhole**

An inspection chamber providing access to drains, etc.

**Mansard Roof**

A roof with a double pitch, the lower part of the slope being



MANSARD ROOF

steeper than the upper part; the name is taken from the French architect, François Mansard. (*See* illustration.)

**Mantel or Mantelshelf**

The shelf above a fireplace opening. (*See also* mantel tree.)

**Mantel Tree**

The term originally used for a horizontal wooden member fixed at right angles to the fireplace jambs, and supporting the chimney breast. From this term the words mantel and mantelshelf are derived.

**Mantelpiece**

The wood, stone or brick surround of a fireplace opening.

**Marble**

A hard species of limestone, pure white or veined and coloured, which takes a high polish.

**Marchionesses**

Slates of size 22 in. by 11 in.

**Margents**

*See margins.*

**Margins or Margents**

In framed work, this term is applied to the flat faces of stiles and rails. A margin also means the narrow border surrounding a hearth where it meets the floor, and mitred to the fireplace.

**Marquetry**

A form of decoration in which a thin sheet of wood is inlaid with ornament, and then glued to a solid wood surface.

**Mask**

A grotesque carved face, human or animal, used in decoration.

**Masonry**

Stone construction, and, in some districts brickwork, or stone and brick construction.

**Mason's Mitre**

The meeting of two mouldings, one of which is turned to butt on to the other, the joint being at this point and not at the mitre.

**Mastic**

A gum or resin used in the manufacture of varnish; also an adhesive for fixing sheet materials such as glass, rubber tiles, etc.

**Mat Sinking or Mat Well**

The sinking in a floor at the entrance door to hold a mat.

**Matchboarding, Matched Boarding or Matching**

Boarding, with tongued and grooved joints, either beaded or V-jointed to conceal the effect of any shrinkage.

**Medallion**

A plaque carved in low relief.

**Meeting Rails**

The horizontal members of a sliding sash window that meet in the centre of the frame when the window is closed.

**Meeting Stiles**

The stiles of double doors that meet when the doors are closed.

**Merlon**

The raised part of a battlement, between the embrasures. An old name, seldom employed now, is cops. (*See* illustration of battlement.)

**Metope**

The space between two triglyphs in a Doric frieze, left open in early work, but later decorated by carving. (*See* illustration of orders.)

**Mezzanine**

A low storey, usually extending over only part of a building, and introduced between any two main floors; sometimes called an entresol.

**Mica Flap**

A mica sheet, hinged to a ventilator, to allow currents of air to pass through it in one direction only.

**Middle Rail**

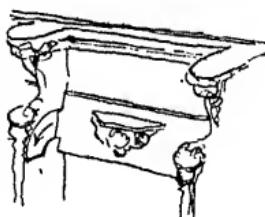
*See* lock rail.

**Mild Steel**

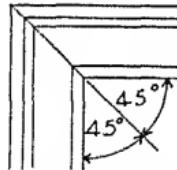
Low carbon steel, used for steel framing of buildings, for concrete reinforcement, and for angles, bars, channels and so on for many purposes.

**Misericord or Miserere**

A narrow seat hinged to fold back, and having a small ledge on the underside, to give support to the occupant when standing. This seat is placed in the choir stalls of a church, and the underside of the ledge is usually decoratively carved. (*See* illustration.)



MISERICORD



MITRED ANGLE

**Mitre**

The diagonal joint formed by two members which intersect at right angles, referring more particularly to mouldings. (*See* illustration.)

**Mitred Valley**

A roof valley in which the slates or tiles are mitred to each other at the angle.

**Modillions**

Brackets supporting the upper members of a cornice in the Corinthian and Composite orders; also called consoles. (*See also ancones and bracket.*)

**Module**

Half the diameter of a Classical column at the base, divided into 30 minutes or parts.

**Monk Bond**

A variation of Flemish bond; in monk bond two stretchers and one header are repeated in a course.

**Monolith**

A single stone, often in the form of a monument or column.

**Montant**

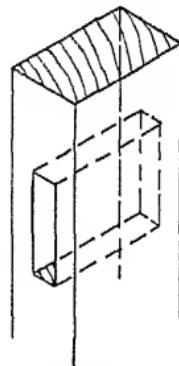
*See* muntin.

**Mopstick Handrail**

A circular handrail, with a small flat surface underneath.

**Mortar**

A material consisting of cement or lime mixed with sand and water to form a hard-setting agent, used for bedding and jointing in bricklaying and masonry.



**Mortise or Mortice**

To join by means of a mortise and tenon: to cut a mortise in a member: the sinking cut in a member to fit the corresponding tenon on another member.

**Mortise and Tenon**

A method of jointing two members, in which a projecting tenon on one fits into a sinking of corresponding size in the other. (*See* illustration.)

**Mortise Lock**

A lock let into a mortise.

**Mosaic**

A form of surface decoration in which patterns are composed with small pieces of glass, stone or marble set in a mastic.

**Motif**

The basic theme of a pattern.

**Motte**

The high mound on which a Norman castle was built.

**Mouchette**

A tracery *motif* resembling a curved dagger.

**Mouldings**

Continuous projections or incisions used as a decorative band.

**Mourners**

*See* weepers.

**Mouth**

*See* cavetto.

**Mullion or Munnion**

A vertical member or bar of stone, wood, or iron, in a window frame, separating the casements or lights. (*See* illustration of window.)

**Munnion**

*See* mullion.

**Muntin, Munting or Montant**

The central vertical member in a door, dividing the panels above and below the middle rail. (*See* illustration of door.)

**Mutule**

A projecting and sometimes slightly inclined block above the triglyph and on the soffit of a Doric cornice.

**Mynchery**

An archaic Saxon name for a nunnery.

N

**Nailhead**

A *motif* based on a pattern of small pyramids, originally used on the heads of nails with which wooden doors were studded.

**Narthex**

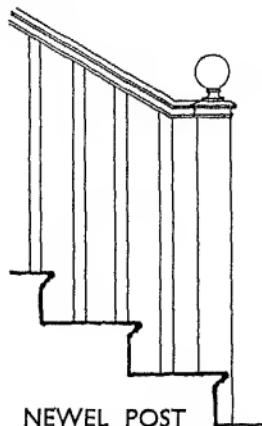
A long porch placed at right angles to the nave in a basilican church, and forming an entrance. (*See* illustration of basilican church.)

**Nave**

That part of a church between the choir and the opposite end, and separated from the aisles. (*See* illustration of basilican church.)

**Newel or Newel Post**

An upright post fixed at the point at which a flight of stairs meets a landing or floor, and which supports the string and handrail. (*See* illustration.)

**Nib**

*See* lug.

**Niche**

A small recess in a wall, often semi-circular, as a setting for statuary, etc.

**No-fines Concrete**

Concrete made of cement and coarse aggregate only, without the fine aggregate, such as sand, normally present in dense concrete.

**Noggging**

A horizontal member fixed between two studs, in partition construction.

**Norman Style**

The form of Romanesque architecture adopted by Norman builders, based on the use of the rounded arch, lasting approximately from 1100 to 1200.

**Nosing**

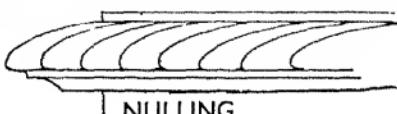
A general term applied to a projecting rounded edge, often referring to that portion of the tread that projects in front of the riser of a stair.

**Notch Board**

Another term for a string. It also means a water-gauging apparatus.

**Nulling**

A form of carved enrichment on Jacobean mouldings and friezes. (*See* illustration.)



NULLING

O

**Obelisk**

A tapering column, of square or rectangular section, with a pyramidal top.

**Octastyle**

The term applied to a building or portico having eight columns at either end.

**Oculus**

A circular window.

**Offset**

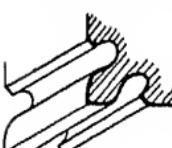
A general term applied to a small projection or ledge such as the projecting brickwork supporting ground floor joists.

**Ogee Arch**

*See* keel arch.

**Ogee Moulding**

A term commonly used for a cyma reversa moulding; sometimes spelt ogive or ogyve, and also called a keel moulding, and a talon. (*See* illustration.)



**Ogive or Ogyve**

*See* ogee.

OGEE  
MOULDING

**One-Pair-of-Stairs**

An obsolete term for the first floor of a building.

**Open Slating**

A method of slating by which adjacent slates are nailed a little apart, thus reducing the cost.

**Open Well Stairs**

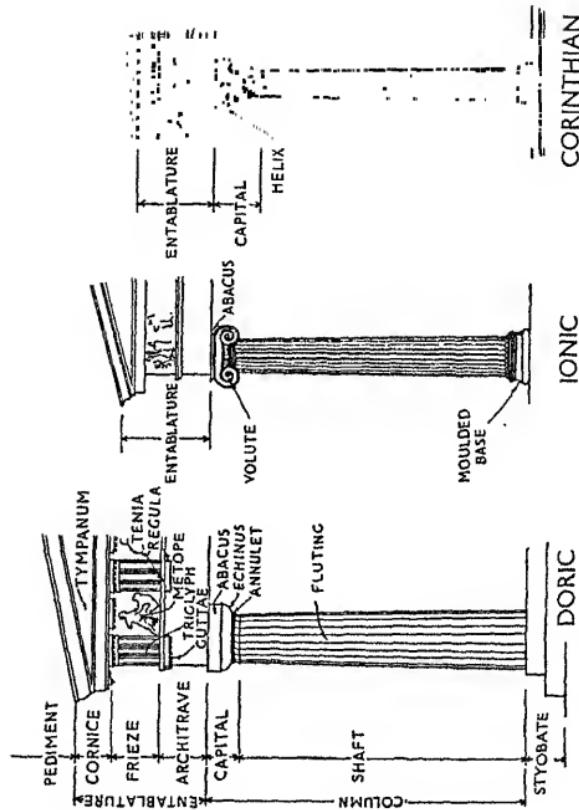
Stairs which rise around a rectangular well.

**Order of Architecture**

A column with base (usually), shaft, and capital surmounted by an entablature. The orders evolved and used by the Greeks were the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian; these were also used by the Romans with two additions, Tuscan (a simplified form of Doric) and Composite (a highly enriched combination of Ionic and Corinthian). (*See* illustrations.)

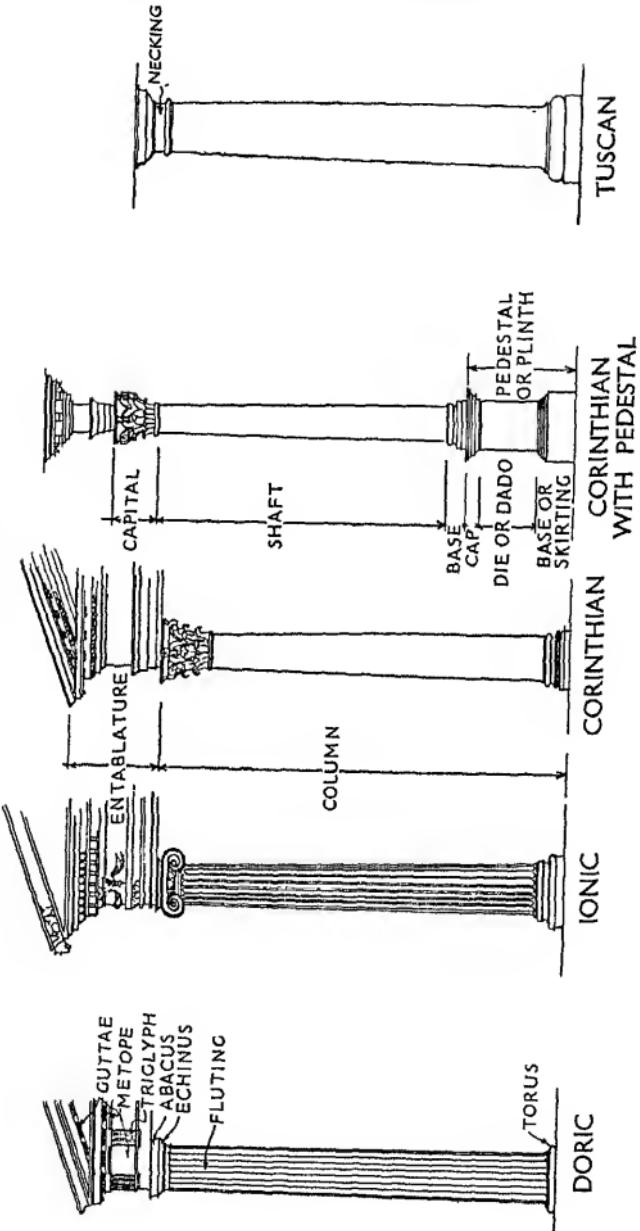
A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

THE GREEK ORDERS



A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

THE ROMAN ORDERS

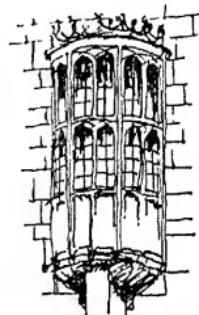


**Oratory**

A small chapel in a private house.

**Oriel Window**

A bay window projecting from an upper storey, sometimes supported by corbels. (*See illustration.*)



ORIEL WINDOW

**Orientation**

The position of a building in relation to the points of the compass.

**Overcloak**

The outer lap of lead over a lead roll.

**Overdoor**

A pediment above a doorway. (*See illustration of door.*)

**Overflow Pipe**

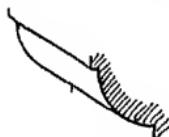
A pipe fitted in a cistern to carry away excess water should the ball valve be out of order.

**Overhang**

A term describing an upper storey of a house which projects above the lower ones.

**Overhanging Eaves**

The term used when a sloping roof is carried out beyond the top of the wall, forming an overhang.



OVOLO

**Oversailing or Sailing Course**

A projecting course of brick or stone in a wall.

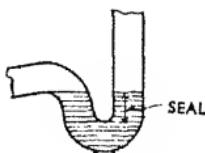
**Ovolo Moulding**

A wide convex moulding. Another name is quarter round. *See also congé.* (*See illustration.*)

P

**P-trap**

A P-shaped trap which forms a water seal in a waste or soil pipe. (*See illustration.*)



**Pad Stone**

*See template.*

**Pagoda**

A word brought to Europe from the Far East in the 16th century by the Portuguese, meaning a many-sided tower, usually polygonal, with elaborately ornamented projecting roofs, of the type built in India and China.

**Pair of Stairs**

*See dog-legged staircase.*

**Palladian Architecture**

A generic term for classical architecture during the 18th century, and widely adopted in England following the publication of the designs of the Italian architect, Andrea Palladio.

**Pallets or Pallet Pieces**

Creosoted wood slips built in at joints at intervals up a jamb, to provide fixing for a door or window frame.

**Palm Vaulting**

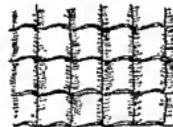
*See fan vaulting.*

**Pane**

The modern use of this word is to describe a flat sheet of glass used for glazing. Formerly, it was applied to the number of facets to a tower, spire, or other part of a building, to spaces between uprights in partitions, and occasionally it meant a panel.

**Panel**

A sunk or raised surface in a wall, ceiling, door, etc., a series being known as panelling. (*See illustration of door.*)



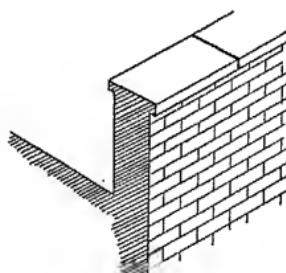
PANTILE

**Pantile**

A tile, slightly bent to form a flat, S-shaped section. (*See illustration.*)

**Parapet or Parapet Wall**

A wall such as is formed by the extension of the outside walls of a building above a flat roof, or built above a cornice; also a protective wall at the edge of a bridge, platform or balcony. (*See illustration.*)



PARAPET

**Parapet Gutter**

A gutter at the edge of a roof, laid behind a parapet.

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

### **Paretting or Parging**

A rendering of mortar used to line a flue.

### **Parquet or Parquet Flooring**

Flooring consisting of thin hardwood pieces (about  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick) laid in various patterns on a wood sub-floor. (*See* also wood block flooring.) Inlaid or plated parquet consists of a surface veneer (about  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick) of decorative hardwood glued in patterns to squares of softwood backing, and laid on a wood sub-floor.

### **Parterre**

The space behind the orchestra in a theatre auditorium. In a garden, this word describes a flat area containing flower beds.

### **Partition**

An internal dividing wall in a building.

### **Party Wall**

A wall which separates two adjacent properties and belongs equally to each owner.

### **Parvise**

An archaic word, which in England described a church porch or a room over such a porch. It is believed to be derived from *paradise*, which formerly meant an open space round a cathedral or church.



PATERA

### **Patera**

A flat, circular ornament, often consisting of acanthus leaves. (*See* illustration.)

### **Pavement Light**

A glazed portion of a pavement, providing daylight to a basement.

### **Pavilion**

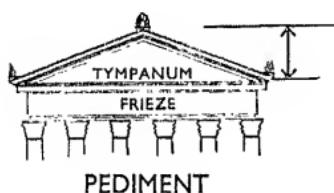
The original use of this word was to describe an isolated building, with a square or domed roof, or flanking the corner of another building. Occasionally it described the projecting front part in the middle of another building. The term has also been applied to a summer-house or pleasure-house in a garden. The word is now used for a single storey building, in which entertainments may be held, or built near a playing-field, for use by players and to accommodate sports equipment.

### **Pebble-dash**

A form of roughcast applied to the external walls of a building, in which pebbles or chippings are hurled on to the rendered surface before it has hardened.

**Pedestal**

The moulded base which supports a column or series of columns.  
(See illustration of Roman orders.)

**Pediment**

A decorative feature finishing the gable end of a classical building by running the top member of the entablature along the edge of the gable; the term is also applied to a triangular, segmental or similar ornamented feature over a door or window opening. (See illustration.)

**Peggies**

The name used in the trade for small roofing slates.

**Pele, Pele Tower or Pile Tower**

A fortified tower, or miniature donjon. (See keep.)

**Pencil Rounded**

An arris very slightly rounded off with sandpaper, in joinery.

**Pendant**

A boss or similar ornament projecting downwards from a vault or ceiling.

**Pendentive**

A triangular, curved, overhanging surface, which, springing from the corner of a square compartment, carries a dome over. (See illustration of dome.)

**Peripteral**

The term describing a building surrounded by a range of columns.

**Peristyle**

The term applied to a range of columns surrounding a building or open court.

**Perpend**

A general term applied to truly perpendicular angles, etc.; also the line formed by the vertical joints on the face of a brick or stone wall.

**Perpendicular Style**

The last phase of English Gothic architecture, following the Decorated period, and preceding the Italianate style of the Early

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

**English Renaissance** of the 16th century; it was notable for its slender vertical ascending lines, and for its great glazed spaces.

### **Perpent Stone**

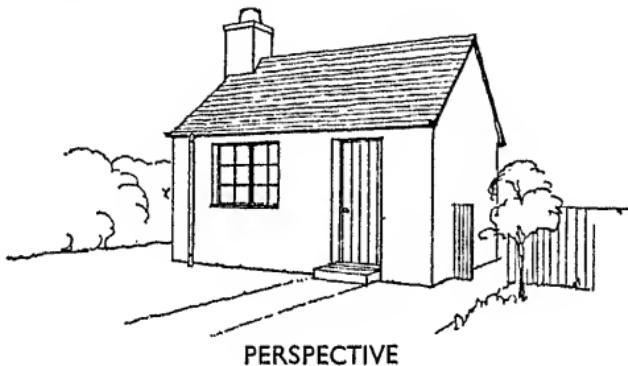
An archaic word for a bonder.

### **Perron**

A flight of steps or a staircase outside a building.

### **Perspective**

A drawing which represents an object as it appears to the eye.  
(See illustration.)



### **Pew**

A fixed wooden seat in the nave, aisles, or chapels in a church, partially enclosed at the ends. In a box pew, this enclosure is high enough to conceal the occupants.

### **Piano Nobile**

A term sometimes applied to the storey of a house which contains the reception rooms.

### **Piazza**

An open space surrounded by buildings; also a covered walk with a roof supported by columns.

### **Picture Rail**

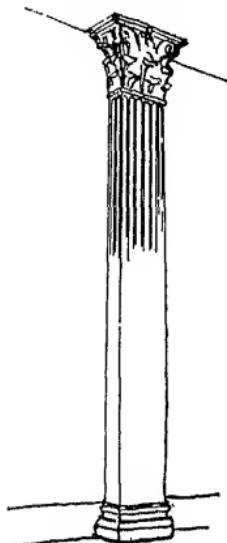
A moulded grooved rail on the upper part of the wall of a room, forming the lower border of the frieze; sometimes called a frieze rail.

### **Pier**

An independent mass of brickwork, masonry or concrete, which gives support to beams or arches, or is attached to a wall at a point where a heavy load is imposed.

**Pietra Dura or Florentine Mosaic Work**

An ornamental mosaic surface, composed of lapis lazuli, agate, fragments of marble, and hard stone, inlaid and highly polished.



PILASTER

**Pilaster**

A rectangular column, projecting only slightly from a wall, and, in Classical architecture, conforming with the design of one of the orders. (*See* illustration.)

**Pilaster Strip**

A pilaster which has neither base nor capital. An alternative term is *lesene*.

**Pile**

A stake or pillar (often reinforced concrete) driven or bored into the ground to support the foundations of a structure.

**Pillar**

An upright member, which, as distinct from a column, need not be cylindrical or conform with the proportions of an order.

**Pillar Tap or Pillar Valve**

A tap or valve fed by a water supply which is joined to it vertically, e.g. a tap fixed to a basin.

**Pinnacle**

The pointed termination of a spire; a small, turret-like termination on a buttress or parapet, sometimes ornamented with crockets.

**Piscina**

A shallow basin set in a niche near the altar in a church, in which sacred vessels are washed; the term is sometimes applied to the tank of a Roman bath.

**Pise de Terre**

Wall construction in which temporary shuttering is filled with rammed clay earth.

**Pitch**

The residue, after extraction of oils, from coal tar. It is treated in various ways for use in building purposes.

**Pitch (of roof)**

The angle at which a roof slopes.

**Pitch Mastic Flooring**

A jointless flooring composed of coarse and fine aggregate bound with fluxed pitch.

**Pitched Roof**

A roof in which the surface rises at an angle as distinct from a flat roof.

**Pitching Piece**

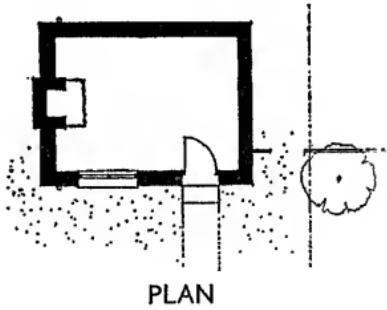
A joist which supports a carriage piece.

**Plain Tiles**

*See tiles.*

**Plan**

A drawing which shows the disposition of a building on the ground, or of the rooms at any given floor level. (*See illustration.*)



**Planeer**

Another term for the soffit of a stair.

**Planted Moulding**

A moulding cut independently and applied to a surface, as distinct from a stuck moulding.

**Plaster**

A material applied to walls and ceilings, and generally understood to be a composition of lime, water, sand, and sometimes hair, and Plaster of Paris.

**Plaster Board**

Building board made of gypsum or similar material faced with paper.

**Plaster of Paris**

Calcined and finely ground gypsum.

**Plastics**

A generic name for chemically produced resinous materials which may be moulded by heat or pressure, or both. There are two basic classes of plastic materials, thermosetting and thermoplastic: the first, after forming by heat and pressure, cannot be reformed by this process, while the second after forming by heat and pressure, may be reformed by the same means. A wide range of plastic products may be produced, with great variations in character and application.

**Platband**

A flat fascia, or course, in which the projection is less than the height. This word is also sometimes applied to a door lintel. A term formerly used was corsa.

**Plate Glass**

More correctly, polished plate glass. A transparent glass, both surfaces of which have been ground, smoothed and polished, to render them flat and parallel, thus giving undistorted vision and reflection.

**Plate Tracery**

Gothic tracery of the Early English period, pierced in a flat slab of stone above the heads of windows, but within the window surround.

**Plinth**

The square member which forms the lowest part of the base of a column; the term is also applied to the moulded projecting base of any structure. (*See* illustration of Roman orders.)

**Plinth Block**

A block at the foot of an architrave, to give a distinctive supporting feature, high enough and thick enough to master the skirting. Usually the moulding of the block roughly follows parallel to the architrave section but omitting the fillets and finer mouldings. Also called a skirting block, architrave block or foot block, in different districts.

**Ploughed**

Grooved. A ploughed and tongued joint is made by joining adjacent grooved boards with a separate tongue of metal or hard-wood inserted into both grooves.

**Ploughshare Twist**

In vaulting, a surface between a diagonal and wall rib, with a twisted appearance, due to the higher level of springing of the wall rib.

**Plug-cock**

*See* bib-cock.

**Plumb Perpendicular**

To test or adjust by means of a plumb-line.

**Plywood**

A material formed by cementing two or more thin sheets of wood, face to face, the grain of alternating sheets running in a different direction.

**Pocket**

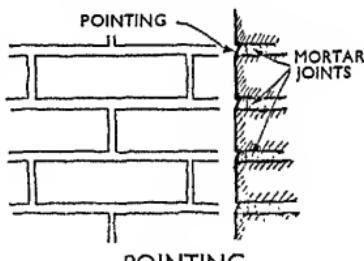
The opening in a pulley stile, giving access to the weights, and closed by the pocket piece.

**Pocket Piece**

The removable cover to the access pocket in a pulley stile.

**Podium**

A continuous plinth supporting a series of columns; also a platform enclosing an arena.



**Pointing**

The surface finish to brick jointing. (*See* illustration.)

**Pole Plate**

A timber laid from truss to truss, and supporting the feet of the common rafters, at the same time forming the side of a parapet gutter.

**Poling Boards**

In temporary timbering for trenches, the boards placed vertically against the sides of the trenches, or against sheeting next to the sides.

**Poppyhead**

The carved finial of a bench-end.

**Porch**

A covered entrance to a building.

**Portail**

A main entrance to a church.

**Portcullis**

An iron or wooden grating in the gateway of a castle, the sides sliding in vertical grooves, so that it can be suspended or lowered at will.

**Porte-Cochère**

A gateway, porch or passage, through which a wheeled vehicle can pass.



**Portico**

A roofed space, open or partly enclosed, forming an entrance to a building. (See illustration.)

**Portland Cement**

An artificial cement manufactured from lime and clay.

**Portland Stone**

Limestone, quarried at Portland, white, cream or light brown in colour.

**Post and Lintel**

One of the earliest forms of construction, based on the principle of a horizontal member (lintel) supported by a fixed vertical member (post) at each end.

**Postern**

A small private entrance, usually a gate, at the back of a building.

**Post-tensioning**

A system of prestressing in which concrete is first cast and set, steel cables are threaded through holes left in the concrete and then stretched and anchored. (See also pre-tensioning.)

**Precast Concrete**

The term applied when concrete members are cast and finished before being built into position, as opposed to being cast *in situ*.

**Precast Stone**

*See* reconstructed stone.

**Predella**

An altar step, sometimes decorated with painting on the vertical

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

**face.** The term is also applied to painting or sculpture applied to the horizontal wall or shelf immediately behind and above an altar.

### Prefabricated

The term applied to any member, or series of members forming a unit used in building, which is manufactured and completed away from the site, and only requires fixing in position.

### Presbytery

That part of the eastern end of a church which is occupied by the high altar, often raised from the floor by steps; sometimes the term is used to include the choir.

### Pressed Brick

A brick which, before burning, is subjected to machine pressing.

### Prestressing

This description is applied to a method of construction in which compressive stresses are deliberately set up in a member, in order to resist tensile stresses which will result from the load. Pre-tensioning and post-tensioning are two systems used.

### Pre-tensioning

A system of prestressing in which high tensile steel wires are stretched before concrete is poured round them. (See also post-tensioning.)

### Priced Bill of Quantities

A bill of quantities with a price entered beside each item.

### Prick Post

An old term for a queen post.

### Pricking-up

The first coat of coarse stuff in plastering on partitions and ceilings: it corresponds to rendering on walls.

### Prime Cost Sum

A prime cost sum, known as a P.C. sum, is a sum provided in a specification or a bill of quantities, for an article to be supplied by a specialist or firm nominated or selected by the architect; or as a provision for the supply of an article, the details of which cannot be settled at the time of drafting the document. A P.C. item is fixed or installed by the builder.

### Priming

The first coat of paint applied.

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

### **Princesses**

Slates of size 24 in. by 14 in.

### **Principal**

The name applied to the frame, or arrangement of trusses, which carries a roof.

### **Principal Posts**

Corner posts used in a timber building.

### **Principal Rafters**

The main rafters forming a roof truss, as distinct from the common rafters. (*See* illustration of king post truss.)

### **Prismatic Glass**

A translucent rolled glass, with one smooth surface, the other consisting of parallel prisms. The arrangement of these prisms causes the light passing through the glass to be refracted in a direction which is determined by the angle of the prism and the slant at which the light strikes the glass.

### **Profile**

Generally, this describes a contour or flat outline. It applies also to the temporary wooden posts or pegs that are set up at the ends of foundation trenches, and act as a guide to the concretor and bricklayer.

### **Prostyle**

The term applied to an open portico with columns, standing in front of a building.

### **Provisional Sum**

A sum included in a specification or a bill of quantities, for special parts of building work, either because the work covered by the sum is to be done by a specialist sub-contractor or because the details cannot be settled at the time of drafting the document. A provisional sum covers both supplying and fixing or executing the work on the site.

### **Pseudo-dipteral**

The term applied to a building planned to be dipteral, but without the inner range of columns.

### **Pteroma**

The space between the walls of the principal part of a temple and the columns which surround it.

**Pugging or Deadening**

Various materials possessing sound insulation properties, used in the floors of buildings.

**Pulley Stile**

The principal member of the side casing of a vertical sliding sash window frame. It carries the pulleys, and forms one side of the box or case containing the weights.

**Pulpit**

A raised, partially enclosed platform in a church, from which the sermon is usually delivered.

**Pulpitum**

The name given to a rood screen in a large church.

**Pulvinated**

Literally, this word means cushioned or pillowled. The term is applied to a frieze having a convex face when seen in profile, and with particular reference to an Ionic frieze.

**Puncheon or Punchion**

A short timber upright; formerly the term was particularly applied to studs.

**Purlin**

A beam carried by roof trusses or walls, and supporting rafters in mid-span. (*See* illustration of king post truss.)

**Purlin Roof**

*See* double roof.

**Putlog Holes**

The small holes left in the walls of a building, to hold the putlogs. With the advent of flat-ended tubular metal putlogs, the holes are mere slots in the horizontal joints.

**Putlogs**

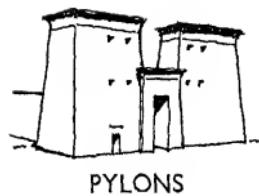
Horizontal scaffolding members, on which the planks or decking of scaffolding are laid.

**Putto**

A sculptured figure of a small, unclothed boy.

**Pycnostyle**

An arrangement of columns in which the space between each is one and a half times the diameter of one column.

**Pylon**

A high, isolated structure, sometimes used to mark a boundary, or decoratively, originally used to flank the gateway of an Egyptian temple. The term is also applied to compound metal supports for electric cables. (*See illustration.*)

**Q****Quadra**

A continuous plinth or podium. The word also means a square border.

**Quadrangle**

A square enclosure with buildings on all four sides. Monasteries were usually built around such courts, and this arrangement is often found in colleges and schools.

**Quadriga**

A sculptured group of a chariot drawn by four horses, often crowning a monument.

**Quantities**

The amounts of various materials and of labour to be used in the construction of a building, from which an estimate of the cost is calculated.

**Quarrel or Quarry**

Both words may mean a stone quarry; or a small square of glass set diamond-wise. A quarrel also means a tiny pierced opening in window tracery, so small that it can be glazed with one square of glass, or quarry.

**Quarries**

Paving tiles made of burnt clay, in a variety of sizes and colours.

**Quarter Landing**

A square landing which makes a quarter turn between two flights of stairs.

**Quarter Round**

An alternative name for an ovolo moulding. *See also boulting.*

**Quatrefoil**

A form of tracery having four arcs separated from each other by cusps. (*See illustration.*)



QUATRE-FOIL

**Queen Anne Style**

The style adopted during the earliest period of Georgian architecture, approximately between 1702 and 1714.

**Queen Closer**

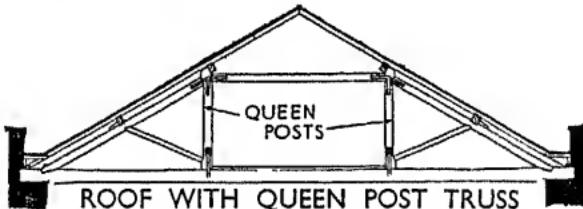
A brick of standard length and thickness, but half width, used at the end of a course, next to the quoin header.

**Queen Post**

One of the two vertical members used in a queen post roof truss. An obsolete term is prick post. (*See illustration of queen post truss.*)

**Queen Post Truss**

A roof truss having two vertical queen posts, as distinct from one central king post. (*See illustration.*)

**Queens**

*See rags.*

**Quirk**

A sharply incised groove in a moulding.

**Quoin**

The external angle of a building; the stone laid at such an angle.

## R

**R.S.B. or Rolled Steel Beam**

*See rolled steel section.*

**R.S.C. or Rolled Steel Channel**

*See rolled steel section.*

**R.S.J. or Rolled Steel Joist**

*See rolled steel section.*

**Radiating Chapels**

Chapels placed around and radiating from the apse of a church, or an ambulatory.

**Rafter**

In roof construction, a member running from the eaves to the ridge, and supporting the roof covering.

**Rag Bolt**

A bolt with a dovetailed serrated shank, used for fixing any member to stone or concrete.

**Rags**

Large roofing slates of size about 36 in. by 24 in. Sometimes known as queens.

**Rail**

A horizontal member of a door, casement, or wall panelling.  
(See illustrations of door and window.)

**Rainwater Head**

A box-shaped unit, sometimes ornamented, usually of cast iron or lead, fixed at the top of a down pipe, and receiving rainwater from a roof gutter through an outlet pipe.

**Ramp**

The part of a staircase handrail which rises at a steeper angle than the normal inclination of the handrail, and usually occurs where winders are used: also a sloping surface joining two surfaces at different levels.

**Rampart**

A wall, of earth or stone, surrounding a fortified town or castle, as an outer defence.

**Rampart Walk**

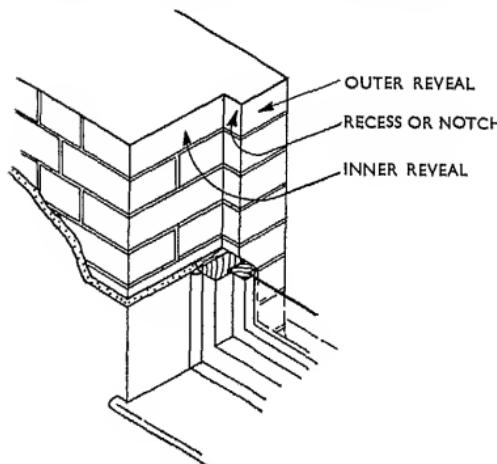
A footway built on the inner side of a rampart.

**Random Rubble**

Walling, of rough uncut stones, not laid in regular horizontal courses.

**Rebate, Rabbet or Rabbit**

A continuous rectangular sinking cut along the edge of a member.  
(See illustration.)



REBATED WINDOW JAMB

**Rebated Joint**

A joint formed between two rebated members, the sinking of one fitting the projection of the other.

**Recess**

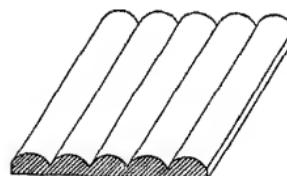
A section of wall set back from the main surface; also the sinking cut in the jamb of a door or window opening, the frame being fitted into this sinking. (*See* illustration of rebate.)

**Reconstructed, Precast or Cast Stone**

Natural stone, crushed and moulded into shape, with the addition of cement and mortar.

**Reeding**

A decorative treatment of a surface by a pattern of inverted flutes. (*See* illustration.)

**Refectory**

A dining-hall in a monastery or college.

**Regency Style**

The architectural style usually associated with the extensive use of painted stucco, and which developed during the Regency period of George III's reign.

**Regula**

A short band between the *tenia* and *guttae* on a Doric entablature. (*See* illustration of Greek orders.)

**Reinforced Concrete**

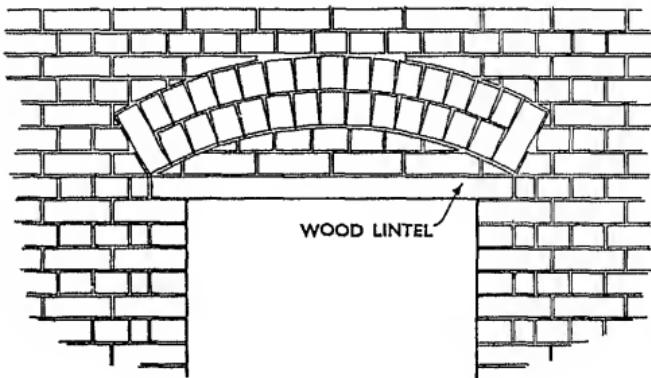
*See* ferro-concrete.

**Reinforcing Rod**

A rod (usually mild steel) or wire used to reinforce concrete.

**Relieving Arch**

A rough arch built into a wall above a lintel, in order to distribute some of the weight imposed on it. (*See* illustration.)



ROUGH BRICK RELIEVING ARCH

**Renaissance Architecture**

Architecture based on the revival of Classical architecture, which occurred in Europe during the 15th and 16th centuries.

**Rendering**

The application of plaster or cement and sand, or similar finish to a surface such as coke breeze or brickwork. The term also means the first coat of plaster applied to a wall, and a wall surface made waterproof by cementing. It is sometimes used as an alternative term to torching.

**Re-pointing**

The process of removing the mortar used for bedding bricks or masonry to a depth of not more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. and replacing it with fresh pointing.

**Repoussé**

Ornamentation on a sheet of metal, formed by beating out the pattern from the back of the sheet.

**Reredos**

A screen, which may be carved or ornamented, behind an altar.

**Respond**

The corbel or half-column supporting one side of the last arch of an arcade.

**Retaining Wall**

A wall which supports and retains a mass of earth or water; also called a revetment.

**Reticulated**

A term for a pattern in the form of a net. In tracery, the word is applied to a circular pattern of ogee shaped curves.

**Return**

The term applied to a turn at right angles, in a façade or surface.

**Reveal**

That part of a vertical surface, or jamb of a window, or door opening, which is not covered by the frame. (*See* illustration of rebate.)

**Revetment**

*See* retaining wall.

**Rib**

A continuous constructional member projecting from and showing as a band, on the surface of a ceiling or a vault. In centering, ribs are the thin pieces of timber shaped to the soffit of an arch and forming the framework for the lagging.

**Ribbed Vaulting**

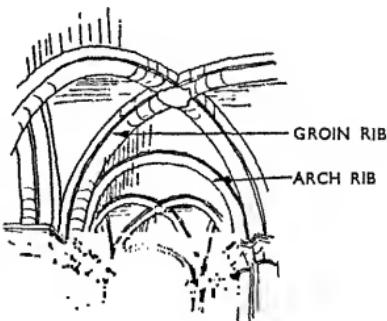
Vaulting supported by constructional ribs, such as groin and arch ribs. (*See* illustration.)

**Ridge**

The apex of a pitched roof.

**Ridge Rib**

In vaulting, the rib which follows the line of the ridge.



RIBBED VAULTING

**Ridge Tile**

A specially constructed tile to fit the ridge of a roof. There are many varieties, the chief being the half round, and plain angle.

**Rim Lock**

A lock fixed on the face of a door, as distinct from a mortise lock.

**Rise**

*Of an arch:* the distance between the springing line and the crown.  
(See illustration of arch.)

*Of a flight:* the height from landing to landing.

*Of a roof:* the height from the lowest to the highest points.

*Of a step:* the vertical distance between the tops of two consecutive treads.

**Riser**

In staircase construction, the vertical part of a step.

**Rococo, Rococco, or Rocaille**

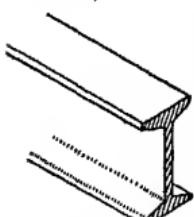
The ornate but graceful style of decoration that originated in France in the late 17th century and flourished during the 18th century. The word is derived from the French *rocaille*, that described the artificial rock-work used in the grottoes of Versailles. Foliage, shells, scrollwork and various elaborate ornamental devices characterized the rococo style, and often obliterated and always minimized the structural lines of an object. When introduced, it was considered a revolutionary style, for its decorative motifs were asymmetrically disposed, and it appeared in an age when classical symmetry was an established convention in architecture.

**Roll Moulding**

A round moulding; in medieval architecture sometimes referred to as a bowtell.

**Rolled Glass**

Glass, which after melting and refining, is extruded between two rollers, forming a continuous ribbon, which is then passed through a heated lehr, gradually solidifying and cooling. Rolled glass may be imprinted on one surface with a shallow pattern.



ROLLED STEEL  
JOIST "R.S.J."

**Rolled Steel Section**

A rolled mild steel bar which may be produced in a number of sections. The most common are the I section, known as R.S.J. or Rolled Steel Joist (also as R.S.B. or Rolled Steel Beam) and the squared channel section known as R.S.C. or Rolled Steel Channel. (See illustration.)

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

### Roman Architecture

The architecture of the Roman Empire, based on the use of the Roman orders, together with the structural use of the arch, vault and dome. (See illustration of Roman orders.)

### Romanesque Style

The style of architecture which was developed in Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, and which gradually spread westwards: it made extensive use of the rounded arch.

### Rood Loft

A gallery built over a rood screen.

### Rood Screen

A screen separating the nave and choir, and sometimes supporting a large cross.

### Roof Light

A skylight or window opening in a roof.

### Roof Line

The term generally used to indicate the contour of a roof or roofs.

### Roof Truss

Several members joined together to form a triangulated girder which supports the roof members and coverings and transmits their weight vertically on to the walls or piers. (See illustrations of king post truss and queen post truss.)

### Roofing Felt

An underlining for slates or tiles, consisting of a fibrous material which has been treated with pitch or bitumen.

### Rose Window

*See wheel window.*

### Rosette

A rose-shaped patera.

### Rotunda

A building or large compartment, circular in plan, usually with a domed roof.

### Rough Arch

An arch built of ordinary bricks as distinct from voussoirs.

### Roughcast

A form of external rendering. A rough material such as small gravel, crushed stone or coarse sand is mixed with a grout to a thick

paste and flung on to an undercoat while this is soft: roughcast is distinguished from pebble-dash in that it is a wet dash or mix that is applied. In Scotland the word harling is used for roughcasting.

### Roundel

A small decorative disc; a circular stained glass panel in a window.

### Router

A tool used by a joiner to level the bottom of a groove.

### Rubbers or Cutters

Bricks containing sufficient sand to give them the softness required for cutting or carving.

### Rubble

Rough, uncut stones.

### Run

Of stairs. (*See* going.)

### Runner

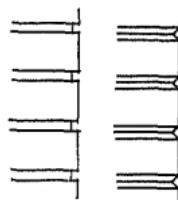
A member running lengthwise in a timber roof, and supported by hangers, to help to carry ceiling joists.

### Running Fret

*See* fret.

### Rusticated

The term applied to masonry or brickwork in which the edge of the stone or brick next to the joint is chamfered or recessed, giving the appearance of a wide joint. (*See* illustration.)

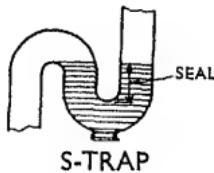


RUSTICATION

## S

### S-trap

An S-shaped trap which forms a water seal in a waste or soil pipe, the double bend causing the discharge finally to flow vertically. (*See* illustration.)



### Saddle Stone

*See* apex stone.

### Saddleback Coping

A coping formed by a triangular brick core constructed with full size bricks and bats, or with special saddle-back bricks or stone or terracotta slabs.

**Sailing Course**

*See oversailing.*

**Sanctuary**

In a church, this is the eastern part of a choir, including the presbytery.

**Sand Lime Bricks**

Bricks made from silica and hydrated lime.

**Sandstone**

A building stone composed mainly of grains of sand cemented by colloidal silica, with small amounts of oxide of lime, carbonate of lime, etc.

**Sarcophagus**

A stone coffin, usually decorated with carving, and inscribed.

**Sarking**

A layer of felt, boarding, etc., lining a pitched roof under the roof covering.

**Sash**

The wood or metal frame which holds the glazed part of a door or window, the most common being the vertically sliding sash and the casement sash; a sash window is generally understood to mean a double hung vertically sliding sash.

**Scaffolding**

A temporary construction of round timber or tubular metal members carrying platforms from which finished work can be completed by stages.

**Scagliola**

A material composed of cement, colouring and isinglass, and generally used to imitate marble.

**Scallop**

Decorative, carved detail resembling a shell.

**Scalloped Capital**

A variety of cushion capital, with the rounded surface of the upper part cut into and shaped as a series of curves or scallops.

**Scape or Scapus**

Another term for a column shaft, or for the apophyge, of a column.

**Scarfing**

A method of jointing members in the direction of their length, in which no extra thickness is formed at the joint, the end of each member being cut to a long narrow projection and fitted to another similarly cut.

**Scarp**

A steep slope. Used as a verb, this word means to create such a slope artificially.

**Scissors Truss**

A roof truss with crossed diagonal ties, like open scissors.



**Scotia**

A concave moulding. (*See* illustration.)

**Screed**

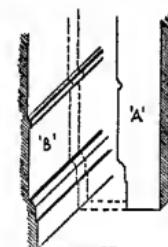
SCOTIA  
A narrow band applied to a surface as a guide before plastering, and often composed of the plastering material to be used; also the final rendering on a concrete floor or roof on which is laid the finish, such as tiles, asphalt, etc.

**Scribing**

A method of fitting framings, mouldings, etc., to an irregular surface, whereby the material to be fitted is cut to fit the irregularities. (*See* illustration.)

**Scrim**

A coarse fabric, covering and holding the joints between building boards before plastering.



**Scroll**

The term sometimes applied to the volute of an Ionic capital.

**Scroll Moulding**

A moulding shaped to resemble a scroll of paper, SCRIBED TO found in Early English and Decorated work.

SCRIBING—  
“A” IS  
“B”

**Seal**

The water held in a trap in a pipe, thus forming a seal. (*See also trap.*)

**Secret Gutter**

A roof gutter laid under the slates, and practically hidden from view by them.

**Section**

An elevational view of the portion exposed by an imaginary cut through a building or object.

**Sedile**

A seat for a priest, built in the south wall of a chancel.

**Sedimentation Tank**

*See* settling tank.

**Segmental Arch**

An arch in which the contour is a segment of a circle.

**Service Duct**

The term usually applied to a duct carrying a main service such as water, gas, or electric or telephone cables.

**Set or Sett**

A small wood or stone paving block, rectangular in shape.

**Settling, Sedimentation or Sludge Tank**

A tank in some forms of sewage disposal plant, of a size to allow suspended solids to settle at the bottom during the flow through the tank, and form sludge.

**Sextpartite**

Gothic vaulting, in which there are six divisions to each bay.

**Sgraffito**

A form of decoration on plastered surfaces, in which the pattern is formed by scraping off parts of the plaster, exposing differently coloured coats beneath.

**Shaft**

That part of a column between the base and the capital; sometimes called a shank, scape, trunk, and formerly, fust. The term is also applied to a small column such as that which supports a vaulting rib; another meaning is the well in which a lift works. (*See* illustration of orders.)

**Shaft Ring**

The moulded band that encircles a shaft joined to a pier, or round a circular pier.

**Shank**

A column shaft, or a long member connecting parts of an appliance. The term is sometimes employed for the flat surfaces separating the channels of a triglyph.

**Sheet Glass**

A transparent glass with a fire-finished surface. As the surfaces are never perfectly flat or parallel, there is always a certain degree of distortion of vision and reflection.

**Shingles**

Thin wooden slips, generally cedar, used as roofing tiles.

**Shoring**

A temporary wooden framework used to support an unstable building, or a building undergoing or adjacent to repair or alteration work. It may also refer to the framework used to support the sides of any excavation.

**Shoulder**

The end of a timber member from which a tenon projects, as though the tenon were a head with shoulders.

**Shutter**

A wood or metal covering for a window, used both externally and internally.

**Shuttering**

Sheeting of metal or wood firmly fixed as temporary walls to enclose poured concrete, being removed when the concrete has set.

**Shutting Stile**

The vertical member of a door on the opposite side to the hinges. (*See* illustration of door.)

**Sight Line**

The line at the edge of the glazing of a sash or light.

**Sill**

The lowest horizontal member of a window frame. (*See* illustration of window.)

**Silo**

A large container in which grain or silage is stored.

**Single Floor**

A floor consisting of a single span.

**Single Lap Tiles**

Roof tiles, which when hung, overlap only the course of tiles below.

**Single Lap Tiling**

*See* lap.

**Single Roof**

A pitched roof of rafters or slabs spanning directly between ridge and wall. A single flat roof is similar to a single floor.

**Singles**

The smallest size slates, 10 in. by 8 in.

**Sinking**

A recess or hollow in a flat surface.

**Size**

A glue, used as a binding agent, and sometimes applied under paint or distemper, to stop absorption.

**Skewback**

The portion of the abutment which supports an arch.

**Skirting**

The moulded wooden member fixed horizontally along the base of an internal wall, and covering the joint between the wall and floor.

**Skirting Block**

*See* plinth block.

**Skylight**

A glazed opening in a sloping roof, lying nearly flush with the roof surface.

**Slag**

The waste products of blast furnaces, that are variously used by different industries. In building, they form such materials as slag wool and aggregate.

**Slaked Lime**

Hydrate of lime formed by mixing quicklime and water.

**Slates**

Thin slabs of slate used as a roof covering, and laid in overlapping courses.

**Sleeper**

A wooden member laid horizontally on the ground to support structural timbers. A valley board supporting the feet of jack rafters.

**Sleeper Wall**

*See* honeycombed wall.

**Sludge Tank**

*See* settling tank.

**Slump**

The settlement made by a sample of wet concrete mix, which is being tested for correct water content. This is known as a slump test.

**Snapped Header**

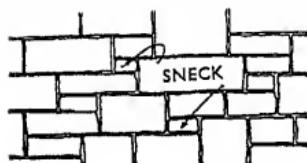
A half brick laid as a header.

**Sneck**

The lever operated by the thumb to open a thumb latch.

**Snecked Rubble**

A form of roughly squared stone work. The blocks of stone vary considerably in size, and the small awkward spaces are filled with snecks, small rectangular fillings. (*See* illustration.)



**Snow Boards**

Duckboards fixed in a parapet or internal gutter in such a way that snow cannot block the gutter, but the flow of water is not impeded.

**Soaker**

A piece of lead fixed at the point where a sloping roof surface meets a wall surface (such as a chimney stack) and is turned up against the wall with a flashing fixed over; its use ensures a more weather-tight joint than is provided by a flashing only.

**Socket**

An aperture shaped to receive some member or the end of a pipe.

**Soffit**

The under surface of an architectural feature, such as an arch, cornice, window or door head, etc. (*See* illustration of arch.)

**Softwood**

Officially defined in British Standards Institution leaflet B.S. 589: 1946 as follows: "A conventional term used to denote the timber of trees belonging to the botanical group *Gymnosperms*. Commercial timbers of this group are practically confined to the class *Coniferae* or Conifers."

## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE

### **Soil Pipe**

The drain pipe connecting a water closet to the drainage system, as distinct from a waste pipe.

### **Solar**

A withdrawing room or private parlour in a medieval castle.

### **Solarium**

A glazed enclosure used as a sun trap.

### **Soldered Dots**

The dots formed in fixing lead to a vertical wooden surface. Lead sheet is dressed into a circular sinking, screwed down, and the depression filled with plumber's solder.

### **Soldier Arch**

A flat arch in which bricks laid on edge are used as a facing to a structural lintel.

### **Soldier Course**

A course of bricks laid upright, so that the stretchers stand vertically.

### **Solive**

An archaic term for a ceiling rafter or joist.

### **Solum**

The area enclosed by the external walls of a building.

### **Sommer or Summer**

A term occasionally used for the principal beam in a floor or partition.

### **Sounding Board**

*See tester.*

### **Span**

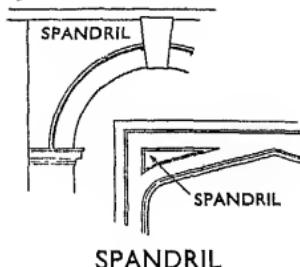
The clear distance between two supporting members. (*See illustration of arch.*)

### **Span Roof or Compass Roof**

A roof consisting of two slopes which meet at a ridge.

**Spandril or Spandrel**

The triangular space, enclosed approximately by the curve of an arch, the horizontal line drawn through its apex, and the vertical line drawn through its springing. (*See illustration.*) The triangular surface between the outer string of a stair and the floor.

**Spandril Steps**

Steps formed of a triangular member instead of a rectangular one.

**Spanish Order**

A variation of the Corinthian order, with a lion's head sculptured on the abacus.

**Spar**

Another term for a rafter.

**Specification**

A statement containing exact details of and precise instructions for carrying out a piece of building work.

**Spigot**

The plain end of a pipe which is fitted into a socket.

**Spindle**

A small turned pillar used in a gallery.

**Spindle and Bead**

 A form of enrichment used on mouldings. (*See illustration.*)

**SPINDLE AND BEAD****Spiral Stairs**

Sometimes known as winding stairs, this type of staircase is circular, the tapered steps winding round a central newel. *See also* vise, and cockle stairs.

**Spire**

The pointed top of a tower, taking the form of an elongated pyramid or cone.

**Spirelet**

*See flèche.*

**Splay**

A general term applied to a surface inclined to a main surface, such as an inclined window reveal.

**Spliced Joint**

A carpentry joint in which the ends of the members are butt jointed and fixed with a splint on either side.

**Springer**

The stone which forms a skewback in an arch.

**Springing, Springing Line or Springing Point**

The point from which an arch springs, from the top of an abutment. (See illustration of arch.)

**Sprocket**

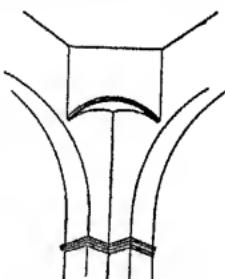
A short rafter fixed at the foot of a common rafter, and at a flatter pitch, thus forming a curve at the bottom of the roof.

**Spur Stone**

A stone suitably shaped, and so fixed at the corner of a building to prevent damage to the structure from traffic.

**Squinch Arch**

An arch built across an internal angle of a square tower, to support one side of an octagonal spire rising from the tower. (See illustration.)



SQUINCH ARCH

**Squint**

An alternative name for a hagioscope.

**Squint Quoin**

A quoin laid so that it does not form a right angle.

**Staircase**

The enclosure or surround in which lie the stairs.

**Stairs**

A continuous succession of steps linking one level to another. The most general types are open well, dog-legged, and spiral.

**Stairway**

A staircase well.

**Stall**

A fixed seat in a church, used by a priest or member of a choir.

**Stanchion**

A metal column (generally R.S.J.) supporting a load carried on to it by a beam or beams.

**Standard of Timber**

A measure of timber in bulk, being 165 cubic feet. This is the St. Petersburg or Petrograd standard. There are other "standards," but this is the one most used.

**Starling**

A pointed projection on the pier of a bridge, to break the force of the water.

**Steeple**

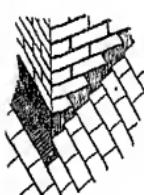
A tower which carries a spire or lantern.

**Stellar Vaulting**

Vaulting to which a star-like appearance is imparted by the disposition of the intermediate and lierne ribs.

**Stepped Flashing**

Flashing used where a sloping roof runs into a wall. The flashing is cut into "steps," the upper edges of which are tucked into the joints of the wall. (*See* illustration.)



STEPPED  
FLASHING

**Stiff Leg**

The name given to sculptured foliage used decoratively on capitals in Early English Gothic work.

**Stile**

A vertical member in a door or window frame, or in panelling. (*See* illustrations of door and window.)

**Stilted Arch**

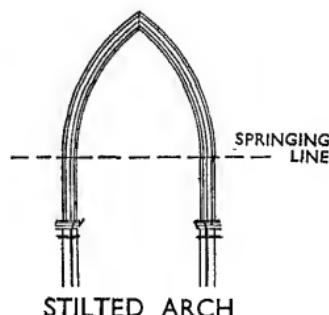
An arch which springs from *above* the impost, and im-  
post being walling.  
(*See* illustration.)

**Stoa**

The term used in Greek architecture for a detached colonnade.

**Stock Brick**

A hard, sound brick that has been burnt in a clamp during manufacture.



**Stool**

The level portion of a weathered sill which makes a horizontal bed for the window jamb.

**Stoothing, Stoothed Partition**

Studding, stud partition.

**Stop**

A narrow bead fixed to a door post, thus forming a rebate for the door.

**Stopcock**

A cock fitted in a water supply pipe, operated by a key or tap-head, and enabling the supply to be cut off.

**Stopping**

Filling in holes in wood, preparatory to priming and painting.

**Storey or Story**

That portion between two floors or between a floor and a roof.

**Storey Post**

A post which carries a load, and extends through a storey.

**Stoup**

A small basin, sometimes a free standing vessel, but usually fixed to or carved in the thickness of the wall at a church door, to hold holy water.

**Straight Stair**

A stair consisting of a flight unbroken by turns.

**Strainer Arch**

An arch above a room, to relieve the walls of weight.

**Strapwork**

An Elizabethan form of decoration, consisting of enriched interlacing bands, generally used on ceilings and occasionally on panels.

**Stress**

The result in a member of the action of external forces upon it. For example: tensile stress is the stress due to the action of two external forces tending to pull the constituents of a member apart; compressive stress is the stress due to the action of two external forces tending to push the constituents of a member together.

**Stretcher**

A brick laid in a course so that its side shows as part of the wall surface.

**Stretcher Bond or Stretching Bond**

A bond consisting only of stretchers.

**Stretcher Course**

A course of stretchers.

**Striges**

The concave channels in a fluted surface.

**Striking Plate**

A plate fixed in a door frame to receive the bolts of a mortise lock, or a mortise latch.

**String**

A sloping member which supports the steps in a stair, and into which the treads and risers are fixed. A string is sometimes called a notch board.

**String Course**

A continuous horizontal band, either plain or moulded, projecting from the face of a structure.

**Strip Flooring**

Flooring of thin narrow tongued and grooved hardwood boards, about  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. thick, and 2 to 3 in. wide, laid on a wood sub-floor.

**Struck Joint**

A joint in which the mortar is slightly compressed with a trowel, so that it forms a slope to carry off water.

**Strut**

A member fixed between two others and holding them apart.

**Stuart Style**

The architecture of the period lasting approximately from the accession of Charles I to the reign of William and Mary.

**Stub Tenon**

A short tenon that stops short without completely penetrating the member to which it is mortised.

**Stucco**

A rendering applied to a wall, providing a smooth surface which may be painted.

**Stuck Moulding**

A moulding formed on a member, as opposed to a planted moulding.

**Studding**

The timber framework of a partition.

**Studs**

Vertical timber members which form the main framework of a partition.

**Stump Tenon**

A short tenon tapering slightly from a thick base.

**Stylobate**

In Classical architecture, the sub-structure on which a colonnade stands. (*See* illustration of Greek orders.)

**Summer**

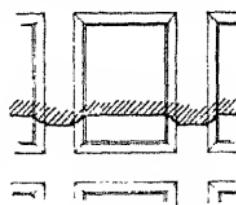
*See* sommer.

**Sunk Moulding**

A moulding that covers the joint between two members with surfaces at different levels, but does not project beyond the most forward surface, as opposed to a bolection moulding.

**Sunk Panel**

A panel in which the central space is recessed behind the surface of the stiles and rails of the framework. (*See* illustration.)



SUNK PANELS

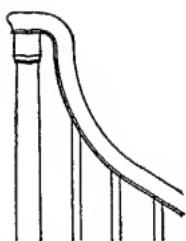
The term for mouldings, panels and margins that are flush with the surface to which they are applied or in which they are formed.

**Suspended Ceiling**

A ceiling hung from the roof or floor above, instead of being applied directly to the structure.

**Swag**

*See* festoon.



**SWAN-NECK ON  
A HANDRAIL**

**Swan-neck**

A general term for a member of ogee shape; it is applied particularly to the bend in a down pipe that occurs at the eaves and joins the vertical part of the pipe to the gutter. The term also describes the curve in a staircase handrail where it rises and bends to join the newel post at the top. (See illustration.)

**Swelling**

An alternative term for entasis.

**Swept Valley or Circle Valley**

A roof valley in which the slates or tiles are cut or tapered at the angle and swept round in continuous horizontal courses.

**Symmetrical Fret**

*See fret.*

**Systyle**

The term describing an arrangement of columns in which the space between each is twice the diameter of one column.

# T

**T-Square**

A T-shaped ruler used in mechanical drawing. The cross-piece is held against the edge of the drawing board and parallel lines are ruled against the bevelled edge of the T-square.

**Talon**

An alternative term for an ogee moulding.

**Tank**

A metal, closed, rectangular container for hot water.

**Tap**

A cock controlling an outlet from a water supply pipe.

**Tap Screw**

A screw that can be screwed direct into metal, forming the corresponding thread as it goes in.

**Tapering Gutter**

A sloping gutter running between two pitched roofs, tapering as it descends.

**Telamones**

*See atlantes.*

**Template**

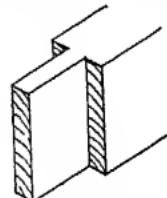
A block used as a load distributor at the top of a wall or pier, particularly where it supports the ends of joists or roof trusses; also called a pad stone.

**Templet**

A thin wood or metal plate, used as a pattern in carrying out some form of detail in construction or decoration.

**Tenia**

The flat band at the top of a Doric architrave, on which the triglyphs rest. (*See* illustration of Greek orders.)



TENON

**Tenon**

A projection cut at one end of a member, and fitted into a corresponding sinking in another member so that a joint is formed. (*See* illustration.)

**Term, Terminal, Terminal Figure or Terminus**

A pier or pedestal tapered at the base, for the support of a bust. The word is an abbreviation of terminal, or terminus, and in architecture it describes a pedestal merging at the top into the upper part of a sculptured human, animal or mythical figure.

**Terrace**

A raised flat space, sometimes bordered by a balustrade; the term is also applied to a continuous row of houses.

**Terracotta**

A material made from fine brick earth, burnt in moulds and used in blocks or as a facing material.

**Terrazzo**

A flooring finish consisting of small coloured pieces of marble, stone, etc., of irregular shape, which are mixed with cement mortar and laid *in situ*; after setting the surface is ground and polished.

**Tessara**

A small cube of stone, marble or glass, used in mosaic work.

**Tessellated**

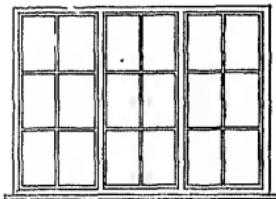
The term describing a cement wall or floor surface, in which decorative tesserae have been embedded.

**Tester or Sounding Board**

A flat canopy suspended horizontally above a pulpit. It also applies to a canopy above a throne, a chair of state, or a fourpost bed.

**Tetrastyle**

The term applied to a building having a portico with four columns.



THREE-LIGHT WINDOW

**Thatch**

A roof covering of straw or reeds.

**Three-light Window**

A window containing three sashes (not necessarily the same size) within one frame. (*See* illustration.)

**Tie**

A member designed to prevent movement apart of two other members on parts of a building. (*See* tie beam and wall tie.)

**Tie Beam**

The bottom horizontal member of a roof truss which ties together the feet of the principal rafters, sometimes called a tie. (*See* illustration of king post truss.)

**Tie Rod**

A metal rod used as a tie.

**Tierceron**

*See* intermediate rib.

**Tile-Hanging**

The term applied when a vertical surface, such as a wall, is tiled, the tiles being hung on battens to form a weatherproof covering.

**Tiles (Plain)**

Flat or slightly curved rectangular plates made from burnt clay, and fixed on battens in overlapping courses, to form a roof covering.

**Tilting Fillet**

A triangular piece of wood fixed under the lowest course of tiles or slates on a roof, to give it an extra tilt.

**Timber Connector**

*See* connector.

**Tingle**

A narrow strip of lead or copper which fastens the free edges of a flashing. The word is also applied to the bricks which keep the bricklayer's line taut.

**To-fall or Too-fall**

An archaic term for a lean-to roof.

**Toggle Joint**

*See knee.*

**Tondino**

An archaic term for an astragal.

**Tongue**

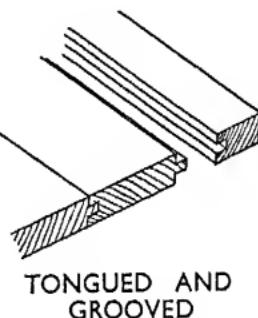
A flat projection on a member, to fit a corresponding groove on another member. (*See illustration of tongued and grooved joint.*)

**Tongued and Grooved Joint**

A joint formed by one member having a projecting tongue fitting into another member with a corresponding groove. (*See illustration.*)

**Top Rail**

The highest horizontal member of a door, shutter, etc. (*See illustration of door.*)



TONGUED AND GROOVED

**Torching**

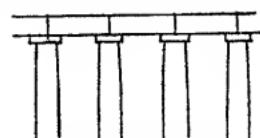
The term applied when the joints between slates and tiles on the underside of a roof covering are pointed with mortar to prevent the entry of wind or rain.

**Torus**

A large convex moulding. (*See illustration.*)

**Toughened Glass**

Glass subjected to a special process of heating and rapid cooling so that its resistance to mechanical and thermal shock has been greatly increased. When broken, it disintegrates into small fragments.



TRABEATED

**Trabeated**

The term applied to architecture based on the principle of post and lintel construction. (*See illustration.*)

**Tracery**

The ornamental stonework formed in the head of a Gothic window, by the branching of the mullions; also work of the same kind on wood panelling. The term tracery dates from the late 17th century, and was frequently used by Wren in formal statements and reports. *(See illustration.)*



TRACERY

**Transept**

The part of a church which lies at right angles to the nave and forms the cross arms in a cruciform plan.

**Transom or Transome**

A main horizontal intermediate member dividing a window opening; also the upper portion of a shop window. *(See illustration of window.)*

**Transverse Ribs**

In vaulting, those main ribs which mark the exact contour of a vault.

**Trap**

An opening (usually square) in a floor or ceiling, providing access to the roof interior in the latter case and sometimes called a trap door; also a bend or dip in a pipe in which liquid always remains, thus isolating one portion of the pipe from another. *(See also P-trap and S-trap.)*

**Travertine**

Limestone from Italy, light cream in colour, which hardens on exposure, and is used, usually in thin slabs, as a finishing material or paving.

**Tread**

The flat horizontal part of a step.

**Trefoil**

A form of tracery having three arcs, separated from each other by cusps. *(See illustration.)*

TREFOIL  
WINDOW

**Treillage or Trellis**

A lattice formed of light wooden members nailed together where they cross.

**Triforium**

A storey immediately above the arcade of a nave or choir in a large church, and below the clerestory; sometimes called a blind storey because there are no windows to admit light from outside.

**Triglyph**

A vertically grooved block used in series in a Doric frieze. (See illustration of orders.)

**Trilithon**

A megalithic monument consisting of a horizontal stone supported by two upright stones.

**Trim**

To form a structural frame round an opening or an object such as a chimney, in a floor, ceiling, roof or wall.

**Trimmer**

A joist fixed at right angles to and carrying the ends of other joists, where they have been cut short to form an opening through a floor or ceiling.

**Trimming Joists, Trimming Rafters**

Joists or rafters at either end of a trimmed opening. They carry the ends of the trimmer.

**Triple Floor or Framed Floor**

A timber floor with three sets of joists: the common joists, carried by binders which are in turn carried by girders.

**Triple Roof or Framed Roof**

Similar to a double roof, with the addition of trusses to support the purlins intermediately. A triple flat roof is similar to a triple floor.

**Trophy**

A carved swag of decoration consisting of arms and armour intermingled with floreated *motifs*.

**Trumeau**

A vertical stone member or mullion, under the tympanum of a door.

**Trunk**

Another word for a shaft of a column; it also means a large pipe of rectangular section. In cabinet-making, it denotes the part of a long-case clock, between the base and the dial. Trunk or trunking also describes main ductwork.

**Truss**

*See roof truss.*

**Tudor Arch**

A flat, pointed, four-centred arch.

**Tudor Flower**

*See brattishing.*

**Tudor Rose**

A conventionalized rose, widely used as a form of enrichment in Tudor ornament.

**Tudor Style**

The English domestic style which followed the Perpendicular period of Gothic architecture, and though similar to it, showed Renaissance influence in its detail; it covered approximately the period 1485 to 1558.

**Turret**

A small tower common in medieval buildings, often containing stairs. (*See illustration.*)

**Tuscan Order**

A Roman Order, which is a simplified form of Doric. (*See illustration of Roman orders.*)

**Tusk Tenon or Shouldered Tenon Joint**

**TURRETS** A type of rigid joint used in trimming. The tenon on the end of the trimmer has a second bearing piece called a tusk projecting from the lower shoulder and housed into the trimming joist or rafter, to relieve the tenon of much load. A wedge through a slot in the projecting end of the tenon makes the joint rigid.

**Tympanum**

The triangular space enclosed by the inclined cornice and the horizontal base of a pediment; also, in medieval architecture, the space enclosed by the arch and lintel above a doorway. (*See illustration of pediment.*)

U

**Uncoursed Work**

A term applied to masonry in which the courses are irregular, the joints being governed by the shapes of the stones or rubble work.

**Undercloak**

In leadwork, the lower lap of lead over a lead roll. In slating and tiling, a course of slates or tiles laid under the mortar bedding of slates or tiles at a gable verge.

**Undercoat(s)**

A coat or coats of paint, following the priming, to obscure the surface and provide an even foundation for the finishing coat.

**Undercroft**

A vaulted room, often a chapel, under a church.

**Underfelting**

*See* roofing felt.

**Underpinning**

The supporting of the foundations of a structure made necessary by the construction of an adjacent building or by the foundations becoming faulty or fractured. The word also describes the supporting structure itself.

**Urella**

A term no longer in general use, describing the caulicoli on a Corinthian capital.

V

**Valley**

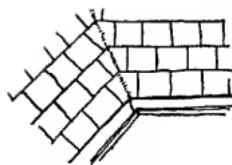
The internal angle formed by the intersection of two adjacent roof surfaces.

**Valley Board**

A board fixed in a roof valley to support lead or zinc or as a support for slates or tiles in a circle valley or laced valley.

**Valley Rafter**

A rafter fixed in an internal angle in a roof.



VALLEY TILES

**Valley Tile**

A specially shaped tile, slightly concave, for laying in roof valleys. (*See* illustration.)

**Vault**

An arched roof in stone or brick; also an underground chamber, store or burial-place.

**Vaulting shaft**

A name introduced by Professor C. N. Willis for a small column, usually rising from the springing point between two arches, which supports the ribs of a vault. In Norman and Early English work this shaft often rises from the floor; it may also spring from a corbel or from the capital of a large column.

**Vauxhall Glass**

Mirror glass, with a bluish tinge, made at the Vauxhall glassworks, where glass was manufactured between 1670 and 1780.

**Veneer**

A surface consisting of a thin sheet of material applied to another surface, which is not necessarily composed of the same material.

**Venetian Door**

A door which incorporates side lights in the frame.

**Venetian Shutter**

A loured shutter.

**Venetian Window**

A window consisting of three lights, a large centre one and two narrow side lights.

**Verandah**

A long covered porch, enclosed on one side by the wall of a building.

**Verge**

The part of a roof which overhangs a gable end.

**Vermiculated**

The term used to describe the worm-eaten appearance caused by irregular shallow channels deliberately made on the surface of a walling block, as a decorative device.

**Vestibule**

An ante-room or large entrance hall.

**Vestry**

A room, usually at the side of a church and joined to it, in which the clergy and choir robe, and in which vestments are kept.

**Viaduct**

A series of arches carrying a road or railway.

**Vignette**

A detail in Gothic ornamentation, consisting of running designs of tendrils and slender leaves.

**Villa**

The estate of a Roman landed proprietor, the residence on such an estate being called the villa-house; the term has generally been applied to country and suburban houses.

**Viscountesses**

Slates of size 18 in. by 9 in.

**Vise or Vyse**

A little-used term for spiral stairs, derived from an archaic word, *vys*, meaning a screw.

**Volute**

The spiral ornament on an Ionic capital; a smaller version appears on the Composite and Corinthian capitals. (*See* illustration of Greek orders.)

**Vousoir**

A wedge-shaped brick or block of stone used in series to form an arch. (*See* illustration of arch.)

W

**Wagon-head Ceiling**

A ceiling which is semi-cylindrical.

**Wagon Roof**

A roof which, from below, resembles the inside of a wagon tilt. It may be left plain, to disclose the arched members and rafters lying close to each other, or covered by a ceiling or panelling. Sometimes called a cradle roof.

**Wagon Vault**

*See* barrel vault.

**Wainscot**

Derived from the Dutch word *wagenschot*, this term has since the 16th century described oak quarter cut. It has also become a generic term for wood panelling applied to internal walls.

**Walings, Wales or Waling Pieces**

Horizontal boards used in temporary timbering for trenches. They are strutted against the sides of the trenches, or against poling boards.

**Wallboard**

A general term for building board.

**Wallplate**

A timber member laid on a wall to take the ends of joists, rafters, etc., and distribute along the wall the load carried by them.

**Wall Ties**

Small pieces of metal or other material, each end of which is built into joints in the two skins of a cavity wall, thus tying the skins together.

**Waney Edge**

The term applied to cut timber in which the rounded corners of the logs can be seen. Such timber is occasionally used for weather-boarding, and the uneven line of the boards supplies a decorative effect. (See illustration.)



WANEY EDGE  
WEATHER-BOARDING

**Wards**

In addition to meaning rooms in a hospital to accommodate patients, this term describes the rings of a lock and the slots in a key.

**Waste Pipe**

The pipe connecting a bath, basin or sink to the drainage system, as distinct from a soil pipe.

**Water Bar**

A small metal bar inserted in a groove under a wood sill, and sometimes immediately under an external door, the latter being rebated over it to prevent the penetration of water at the joint.

**Waterleaf**

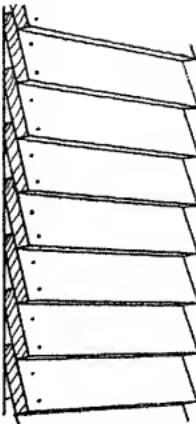
A motif used on capitals in the late 12th century, based on a water-lily leaf, the pointed tip meeting the angle of the abacus.

**Weather Slating**

Vertical slating applied to an outside wall.

**Weather Tiling**

Vertical tiling applied to an outside wall. (*See tile-hanging.*)



**Weather-boarding**

Boarding in horizontal overlapping courses, fixed to a framework and forming the outside wall of a building. (*See illustration.*)

**Weathering**

An inclined surface on a member such as a buttress, cornice or sill, which throws off rainwater.

**Weepers or Mourners**

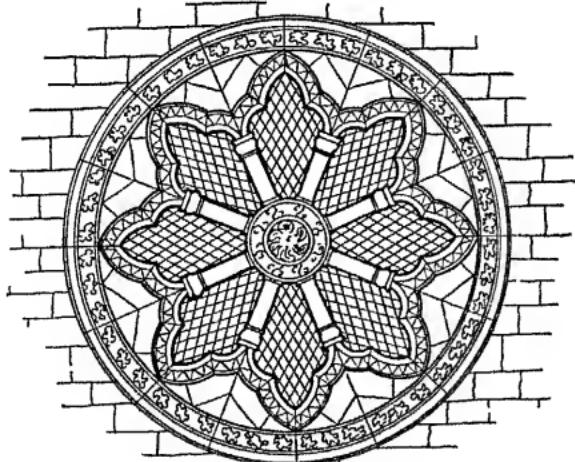
The small sculptured figures that occupy WEATHER-BOARDING niches in the sides of a medieval tomb.

**Wet Rot**

Decay in timber, caused by fungi which affects wood that is definitely wet. (*See also dry rot.*)

**Wheel Window**

A circular window, filled with tracery, the mullions radiating outwards from the centre; sometimes called a rose window. (*See illustration.*)



WHEEL WINDOW

**Winder**

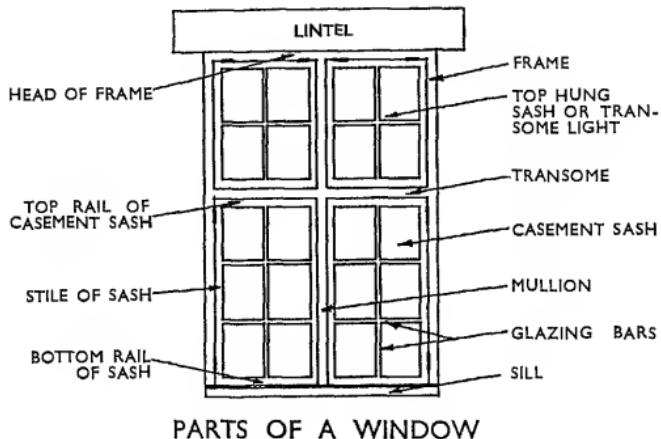
In staircase construction, a step tapering on plan, and used where the stairs turn. (*See also dancing steps.*)

**Winding Stairs**

*See spiral stairs.*

**Window**

An opening in an internal or external wall of a building or side of a vehicle, to admit light and air. Window apertures are now glazed, but formerly were filled with horn or oiled silk or linen. The glass may be fixed in sash frames, or in casements hinged to the window frame. The word is derived from the Norwegian *vindauga*, meaning wind-eye. (*See illustration.*)

**Window Frame**

A frame to a window opening, in which a sash is set.

**Wiped Joint**

A joint made by wiping or smoothing molten solder to cover the junction of lead service pipes.

**Wired Glass**

Glass reinforced by wire mesh embedded during manufacture.

**With or Withe**

The dividing wall between chimney flues.

**Wood Block Flooring**

Tongued and grooved wood blocks, about 1 in. thick, laid in mastic, usually on a screeded concrete floor.

**Wood Wool Slabs**

Building slabs or blocks made of wood fibre and cement, and possessing insulation properties.

**Working Drawing**

An accurate drawing to scale, showing details of construction.

**Wreath**

The curved section of a continuous handrail, at the point where it makes a bend.

**X**

**Xystus**

An archaic term for an ambulatory. It was also used by the Greeks to describe a very long portico in which athletic contests were held, and by the Romans for a long covered or open walk, bordered by trees.

**Y**

**York Stone**

A sandstone found in the Yorkshire area, and used chiefly for paving stones.

**Yorkshire Light**

A form of window found in old houses, especially in the northern counties. It consists of a pair of lights, one fixed and the other sliding horizontally.

**Z**

**Ziggurat**

A pyramid-shaped tower, built in a series of steps or terraces, from the top of which astrological observations were made by the Chaldeans and Babylonians who erected these structures.

**Zig-zag**

An enrichment often found on Norman mouldings. (*See* chevron.)

**Zoophorus**

A frieze in which animals as well as human figures are shown; the most famous is probably that in the Parthenon at Athens.

## SOME BOOKS ON ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING

### 17th century

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*Elements of Architecture* (1624), subsequently included in Izaak Walton's *Reliquae Wottonianae*.

### 18th century

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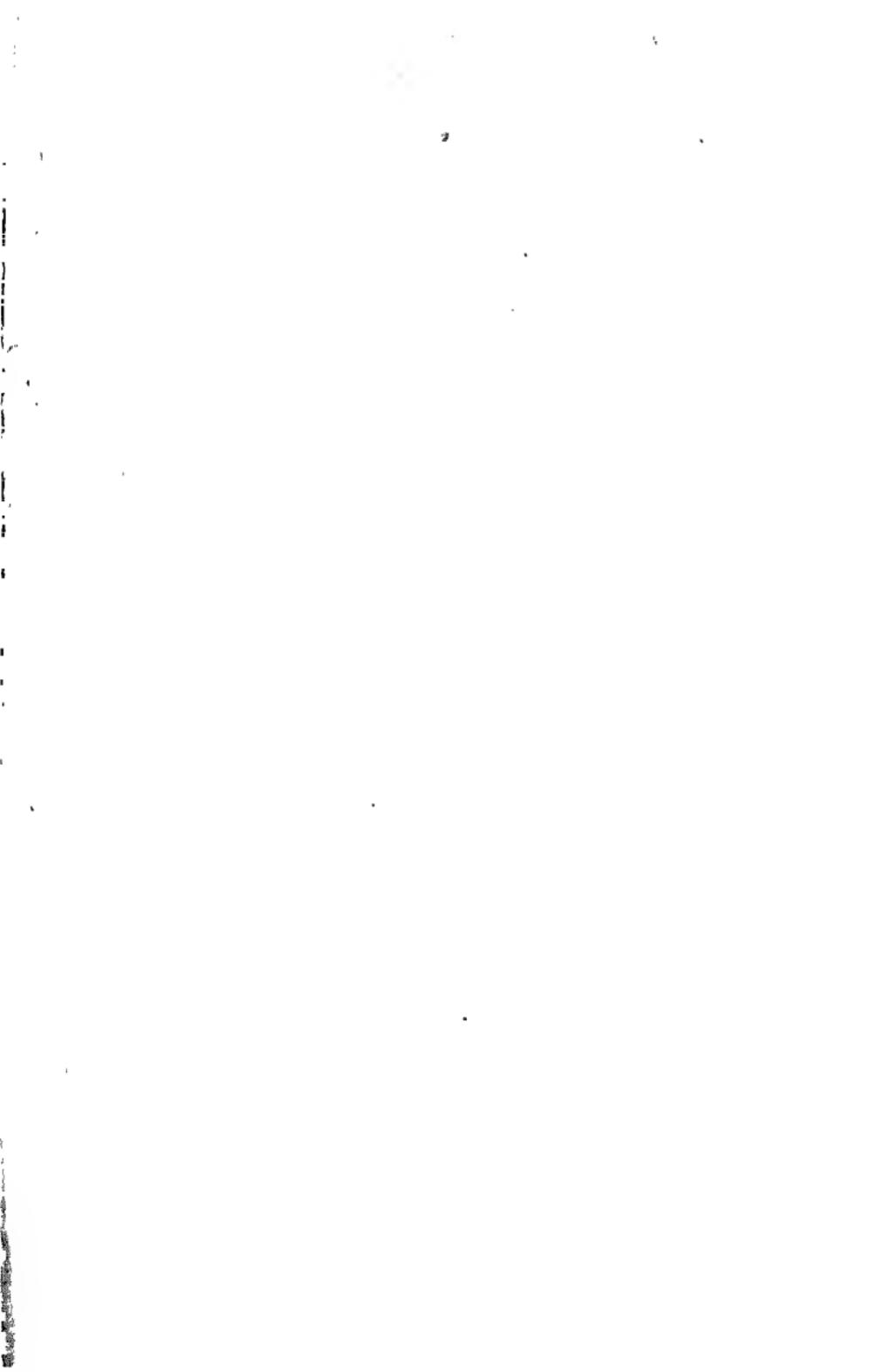
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